



CONCORDAT ON OPENNESS ON ANIMAL RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK is a voluntary commitment to openness and transparency developed to support organisations that use or support the use of animals in scientific research to communicate effectively with wider society on this issue. The Concordat was conceived in 2012, and developed over 18 months, launching in May 2014.

Concordat signatories sign up to four commitments to take steps towards greater transparency around their use of animals in research.

- We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research.
- We will enhance our communications with the media and public.
- We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to learn about animal research.
- We will report annually on our experiences and share practices.

The fourth of these commitments concerns annual reporting on their progress, and this reporting forms the basis of the present report, giving a snapshot of the work being undertaken by the sector, and an assessment of the impacts of the Concordat in the three years since its launch. Reporting is undertaken by all organisations that have been signatories for over one year, 113 organisations (64 research organisations, and 49 organisations that support research) in 2017.

COMMITMENT 1: WE WILL BE CLEAR ABOUT WHEN, HOW AND WHY WE USE ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

Signatories cited many successes in creating transparency initiatives and engagement activities, making significant impact on their institutions, and providing many case studies and examples of greater openness.

For research organisations both the resources required to support their communications and activities, and the caution of those who had previously had bad experiences with illegal targeting by the animal-rights movement remained the most significant barriers to greater openness.

Providing a balanced communication of the harms as well as the benefits involved in animal research remained a significant challenge for organisations whose aim is to present their research in the best possible light, and who are mindful of the consequences of negative reactions to their work. Examples that illustrate ethical challenges and the limitations of animal research are available on Concordat signatory websites, and are highlighted to all signatories, however these examples are sector-leading, and this remains a challenging area for signatories.

In the three years since the Concordat was developed signatories have actively communicated about their use (or support for the use) of animals in research to staff throughout their organisations. In the past only staff directly involved with animal research were informed how and why it took place within their organisations. It is now common-place for institutions to advertise animal-facility or related jobs openly, and to discuss the use of animals in research at interview and staff inductions for all staff, regardless of their role or department. Open AWERB meetings are also becoming more common.

Membership and charity organisations are providing more proactive communications to members and supporters about their involvement in animal research, and staff who do not work for research organisations have the opportunity to visit Concordat signatories' animal facilities to see the animals for themselves. This has proved particularly helpful to people who work in this area.

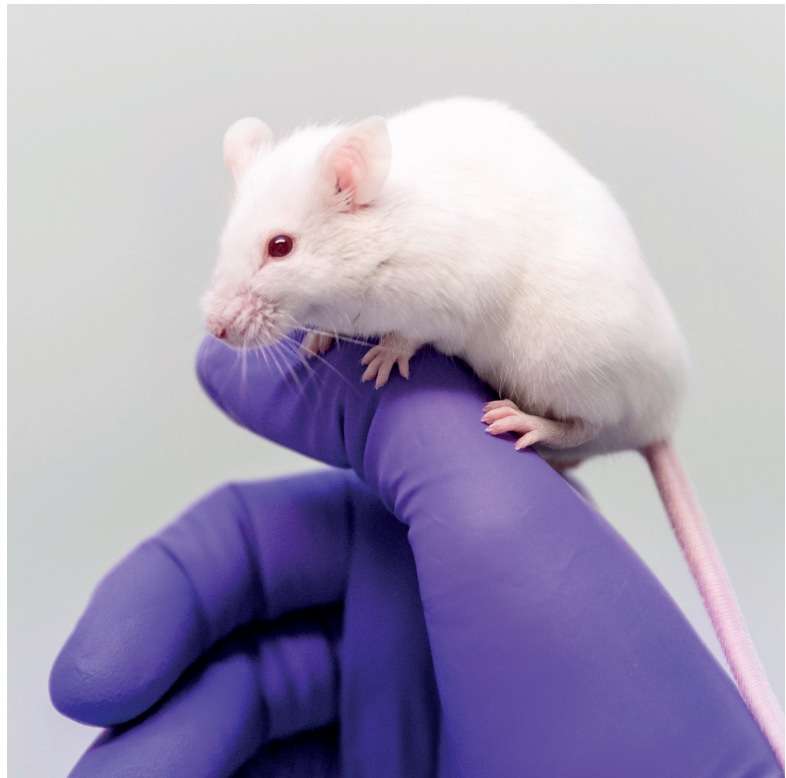
All signatories of the Concordat must provide a rationale for their use of animals in research in a public-facing statement on their website, and many proactively provide more detailed information such as lay-summaries of the research carried out, funded or supported and images of the animals used in research. Prior to the Concordat access to this content was limited, but now Concordat signatories' webpages share information about how and why animals are used that is in context and specific to the different organisations involved, fully representing the range of animal research that takes place in the UK. Aside from websites signatories provide proactive information about animal research through face-to-face engagement with public audiences such as careers fairs, workshops and open days.

In general, signatories do not feel that partnership working is a barrier to meeting commitments under the Concordat, and several stated that the Concordat is so prevalent that openness is now expected by many UK partners. Where there may be differing expectations, such as with overseas partners, written policies around openness in partnership working have proved helpful to Concordat signatories.

COMMITMENT 2: WE WILL ENHANCE OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC

Since the launch of the Concordat there has been considerably more material about the use of animals in research available to the public. Consequently, media interest in this topic is now minimal, but focuses on specific scientific and ethical aspects of animal research.

Crucially, the websites, images, case studies and videos available to the public are provided by the research organisations themselves, showcasing their work, and reflecting the practices and discussions that occur internally.



Prior to the Concordat public felt that they were disconnected from the research that happened locally to them and in named institutions. Aggregated numbers provided by the Home Office each year held no context, and individuals could not relate to the number of animals or what had happened to them. By providing public information about how they justify their research and which projects they run, as well as the numbers and species of animals used in that work, organisations provide public with far greater context.

Public engagement events, although resource intensive, have proved increasingly popular and many institutions have developed ways that they can overcome barriers and showcase their animal research without taking visitors into animal facilities. Increasingly communications teams and individual researchers are active on social media, speaking directly about why they consider this work to be important, supported and championed by their institutions. Research and funding organisations are producing



their own public-facing leaflets about their use of animals in research, and numerous organisations now work to actively engage media, working hard to accommodate requests when they come.

Media engagement can prove more challenging for commercial organisations, who often have complex organisational structures and sign-off processes. One of the challenges for the Concordat over the next three years will be to develop structures that support media engagement among commercial signatories. While corporate constraints can be limiting for some communications practices many commercial signatories have active outreach and public engagement programmes that support greater openness within local communities.

All Concordat signatories have public-facing website statements that outline the rationale for their research or support of research that involves the use of animals, and are advised that these statements should be prominent and easily accessible. Fifty-two organisations now have more extensive information about their use of animals in research, such as numbers and species of animals used or funded and project summaries available through their websites, and several of these websites are now indexed by Google in the top 20 websites on a search for 'animal research'.

Time and resource are still significant barriers to the implementation of practices that drive greater openness, and there is still nervousness about engaging on animal research from the scientific community. This nervousness is decreasing as examples of transparency emerge from the sector. The learned societies will have a key role to play in encouraging openness among their members over the coming years.

The NC3R's ARRIVE Guidelines are actively endorsed by a majority of Concordat signatories (n=64), but several admit that they are difficult to enforce. Best-practice under the Concordat means actively checking articles for publication for against the ARRIVE guidelines, and although this is currently done by some signatories the process has proved complicated in practice and only a minority of signatories meet the recommendation.

COMMITMENT 3: WE WILL BE PROACTIVE IN PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO FIND OUT ABOUT RESEARCH USING ANIMALS

Signatories provided many examples of collaborations with other organisations that had led to the development of public and stakeholder engagement initiatives, many of which have communications outputs, such as joint press releases or engagement strategies. Many research organisations now arrange family days, and some invite more diverse groups such as schools and public groups to see their facilities, along with many creative engagement activities to showcase their science.

While science involving the use of animals in research was rarely seen at science festivals and public events in the past, many institutions now ensure that this research is discussed in more open fora. UAR has also worked with signatories to provide staff from non-research organisations with the opportunity to visit animal facilities.

Creative use of technology has allowed several research organisations to provide public with virtual, or on camera tours of their facilities, overcoming many of the difficulties associated with taking public to see the animals directly.



OUTCOMES OF THE CONCORDAT

Outcomes of the Concordat were identified with respect to the objectives set out for this transparency agreement in 2012. Views of animal research within the stakeholder community have changed considerably in this time, and some of those changes are visible through or attributable to the Concordat on Openness.

Improved public access to 'what happens to research animals and why' has been achieved through the considerable information placed into the public domain by research organisations. Although website-policy statements have been available for some time, in the past they were well-hidden and accessible and full information about which animals are held in particular institutions, why they are used and how they are cared for was usually unavailable. Numbers and types of animals used by institutions, images of animals (stock and undergoing procedures) and videos to show how animal research is carried out is now readily accessible to interested public.

Institutions now discuss their animal research openly with staff and students, hold open days and invite visits to their animal facilities.

Common-place public information about the use of animals in research has **raised expectations of openness and transparency around the use of animals in research for research organisations, their funders and supporters**. Most research organisations now provide some public information about their use of animals in research, and with 116 organisations signed up to the Concordat there is now a greater expectation that organisations will assume a minimal level of openness.

The annual Openness Awards have provided a means of recognising and championing best practice in openness. The awards have grown year-on year allowing others to learn from innovative and brave initiatives.

Although the Concordat sought to **provide better quality and more accurate information about animal research to the media**, a consequence of the accessibility of information about the use of animals in research has



reduced media interest in this topic, so that there have only been a handful of significant media stories over the past three years. However, it is now commonplace for research organisations to include mention of study-species in press releases, which in turn has made mentions of research animals such as mice, rats and fish common-place in science-reporting.

Concordat signatories increasingly discuss their animal research on social media as part of their communication strategies.

In its administration of the Concordat Understanding Animal Research¹ presents the strategic benefits of openness, and provides support to signatories through presentations, consultation and communications training. This work aims to **alert the research community to the risks of secrecy and provide support for greater transparency** and appears to be effective as 44 organisations have signed the Concordat since its launch in 2014. Recently the UK's movement towards greater transparency around the use of animals in research was featured in a *Science*² article which showed how the conversation in the UK has changed from one about the risks of openness to one about the risks of secrecy.

The Concordat on Openness sought to change an endemic culture of secrecy around the use of animals that was present in UK life-sciences research, and has predominantly been developed and supported by managers and senior leaders in research and funding organisations. The Concordat aimed to **gain buy-in for greater openness from the top-down and the bottom-up**, but has so far been largely driven at senior levels.

Staff engagement has come a long way over the three years since the launch of the Concordat, particularly in the commercial sector, but in the diverse communities of the

academic sector there is still considerable nervousness associated with openness and the potential for those who use animals in their research to be targeted by activists. Over the next three years the learned societies, trade associations and funding organisations such as charities will have a key role to play in supporting researchers and others within the life-science sector to drive openness from the ground-upwards and embed the changes that have been seen so far.

IMPACTS OF THE CONCORDAT

The Concordat was considered, a successful initiative by 98% of signatories, with some feeling that the extent of the change had been modest, but others seeing it as considerable. The Concordat was thought to have provided the sector with a cohesive approach to communicating on animal research, but that it is still early to see wider impacts.

Non-research organisations such as learned societies felt that they had seen smaller impacts from the Concordat, and that there is not yet an appreciable impact on the wider public, beyond the scientific community.

Signatories identified several key impacts of the Concordat on their organisations³:

- Enabling internal conversations about greater openness.
- Vision across the sector.
- Raising the profile of animal research and animal welfare.
- Research staff and technicians have greater confidence.
- Easier handling of information and enquires.

A minority of signatories felt that there had been no or limited impacts on their organisations.

¹ www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk

² www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/07/woo-public-europe-opens-animal-experiments-us-less-transparent.

³ Signatories were asked to comment on the greatest impacts of the Concordat so far through free-text, and responses were themed.

They also identified impacts on the Life Sciences sector:

- Visibility and awareness of animal research
- Utility and collaboration, as it brought organisations from across the sector together.
- Media and audiences now have a new approach to and greater understanding of animal research.
- Fears and confidence to speak about animal research have altered as voices against have become more reasoned and less aggressive.
- Animal welfare has seen a positive impact due to the higher profile and increased scrutiny which has led to investments and improvements in animal care.

An internet search for 'animal research' using Google returns Concordat signatories' animal research websites on pages one and two of results.

SOCIAL CHANGES SUPPORTED BY THE CONCORDAT

Societal changes occur due to many factors, and it is difficult to ascribe impacts to any direct intervention, however through bringing together life-science sector organisations and providing common goals around communications the Concordat has acted alongside other initiatives to bring about impacts on:

- Public access to information about animals in research directly from those who do the research.
- A greater understanding and appreciation for the role of animal care staff, both in and outside the sector.
- Increased profile of animal facilities within their establishments, leading to greater investment and better animal welfare.
- Better access to see inside animal facilities (for those interested in this work).
- Fewer reactive communications on the use of animals in research, due to more information proactively in the public domain.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Some areas have proved challenging for Concordat signatories, and must be addressed through focus and further support:

- Accurate communication of harms done to animals in research remains a difficult topic for the research community, and although some organisations take steps to provide balanced information, others could provide more.
- While many organisations comply with the Concordat, only a few are leading, and others should be encouraged to see the value in taking bolder steps.
- Non-academic organisations are reluctant to work with the media to explain their research to public audiences, and many establishments could do more to work openly with the press.
- The role played by non-research organisations within the Concordat should be clarified, and steps taken to ensure that the administrative processes provide for and are appropriate to them.

NEW AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CONCORDAT FROM 2017

Since its beginnings in 2012 the Concordat has been fully established, and the communication of animal research has changed considerably. The aims of the Concordat will therefore be adjusted so that the third aim reflects ongoing work by the sector towards transparency.

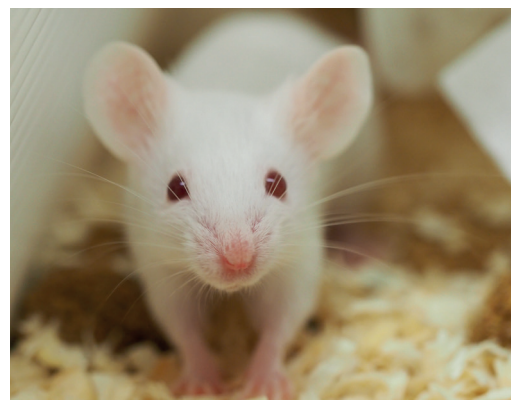
AIMS OF THE CONCORDAT:

1. Support confidence and trust in the life-sciences sector.
2. Build open dialogue with the public on the reality of the use of animals in scientific research.
3. Foster greater openness and practical steps that will improve transparency about the use of animal in research.

The objectives for the years 2017-2020 have remained broadly similar to those used originally, with objectives two and five altered so that they define intended audiences more explicitly.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONCORDAT:

1. Improve public access to information about what happens to research animals and why.
2. Raise the expectation of openness and transparency around the use of animals in research for research organisations, their funders and supporters.
3. Recognise and champion best practice in openness.
4. Provide better quality and more accurate information to media.
5. Alert the research community to the risks of secrecy, and provide support for greater transparency, highlighting its benefits for science, animal welfare and communications.
6. Gain buy-in for greater openness within practitioners and stakeholders in the animal research sector, from both the top-down and the bottom-up.



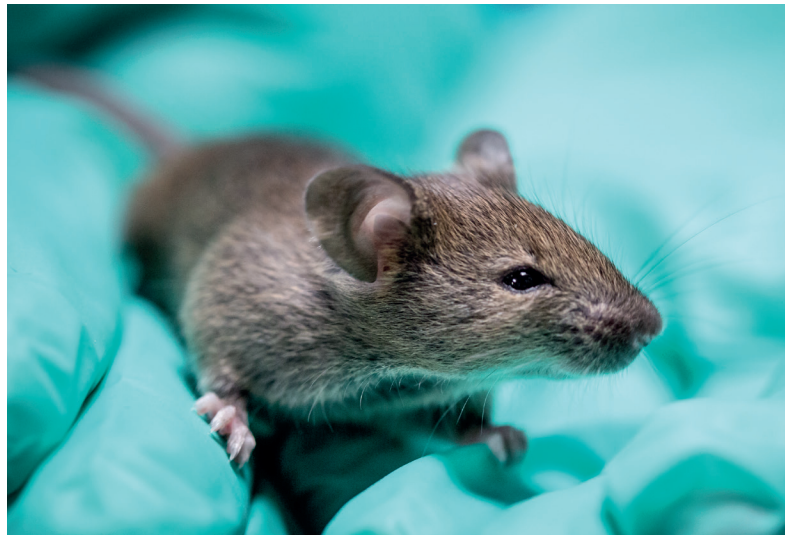
INTRODUCTION

The Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK is a voluntary code of practice which sits alongside legislation, providing a structured framework and guidance for the research sector to develop more transparent communications about their use of animals in research.

It was launched in May 2014, and this report covers the third year of activity by signatories towards meeting its four commitments:

- We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research
- We will enhance our communications with the media and public
- We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to learn about animal research
- We will report annually on our experiences and share practices

Concerned with information placed into the public domain, the Concordat brings together a group of organisations whose staff or members carry out animal research, or who fund or are directly involved with the use of animals in research. As well as academic and commercial research organisations, the Concordat signatories also include learned societies and research funding bodies. This report fulfils the last of the four commitments detailed above by providing an overview of the types of activities and changes undertaken by signatories over the past year. It should give the reader a snapshot of how the sector has changed, where it has progressed and where there is still a distance to go to reach expected transparency.



It is set out in three sections, with each section covering one of the other three commitments. While activities undertaken to support openness do not necessarily fall into one commitment or another, this format makes the steps taken in meeting commitments easier to identify.

Signatories are a diverse group of organisations with differing structures and drivers, which mean that not all signatories are able to take the same steps towards greater openness, but all signatories are required to take their own steps towards greater transparency and report what has been done. They are also provided with support and guidance through the Concordat, to develop their aspirations and ensure that transparency is a continual process that is expected and actively sought.

The original Concordat document (2014) stated that the commitments and structure of the Concordat would be reviewed after three years in 2017, to assess its fitness for purpose, and whether changes needed to be made. This report forms the basis of that review study, and so focuses on outcomes and impacts of the Concordat after three years, looking at the changes that have been implemented over that time.



These impacts were considered broadly through the survey as part of the reporting process, and in more depth through group discussions in the Open Space event that was held for Concordat Signatories in London at the third anniversary of the Concordat's launch (May 2017). This event focused on impacts of the Concordat, and how it should be shaped in the future, allowing participants to consider some of the more difficult aspects of the Concordat and resources or support that might help them to move their organisations forward towards greater openness. This meeting's findings are considered in a section at the end of this report, and reports of the discussion groups at the meeting are available on the Concordat website, www.ConcordatOpenness.org.uk.

The data that formed the basis for this report were collected through an electronic survey sent to all signatories of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK. The survey was open for six weeks, and responses were provided by all signatories. Most signatories produced a co-ordinated response on behalf of their organisation, and it is usual for a committee such as the Animal Welfare Ethical Review Body (AWERB) to have been involved in the drafting.

Information was analysed using SmartSurvey's inbuilt analysis software, and by manually theming and coding qualitative data. Organisations were not expected to answer every question, and indeed some questions were not relevant to all signatory organisations. As in previous reports the names of organisations have been removed to allow ideas to be reported freely. Where quotes have been selected for illustration, the sector represented by the comment has been identified in order to distinguish between Concordat implementation by different sectors.

Graphs and charts presented throughout the report show absolute numbers rather than percentages. Since signatories were not expected to answer every question the total numbers of answers varied across questions.

COMPLIANCE, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASPIRATIONS

In 2015, following the Concordat signatories' reports detailing their first year, the Steering Group made some changes to the terms of the Concordat and developed recommendations for Concordat signatories.

In addition to providing a copy of their logo to the Concordat website, administered by Understanding Animal Research, and reporting annually on their experiences around openness and animal research through the annual survey, it is now a requirement that signatories have a statement on their public-facing website detailing their position regarding the use of animals in research. This is linked to from the Concordat on Openness website, which acts as an access point for all such signatory policy statements.

This statement has no standard form, and should not be copied from another institution (although there are many examples available), but should account publicly for the position that the organisation adopts regarding animal research. If they carry out animal research they must state this and account for why the organisation adopts this policy and considers it an ethical position. If they support or fund animal research their web statement should, transparently, tell readers why they do so. New signatories must have a statement in place before they can sign up to the Concordat, and former signatories have been required to put a statement in place.

GOING BEYOND COMPLIANCE

In addition to the minimum requirements for compliance with the Concordat, the Steering Group made recommendations for each commitment, which were detailed fully in the 2015 Concordat report. These recommendations represent good practice under the Concordat and the progress of signatories against these recommendations is documented throughout this report, to show change with regard to openness around the use of animals in research since the launch of the Concordat in 2014. These recommendations are listed below in Table 1.

TABLE 1. RECOMMENDATIONS OF 2015 REPORT

1.1

Signatory organisations should take steps to meet the challenges of providing balanced information, acknowledging harms as well as benefits of animal research and commenting critically on the models they use.

Examples of well-balanced communication that acknowledge harms to animals in appropriate context should be identified and shared, so helping all signatories to meet this commitment. Clear guidance in writing balanced reports should be provided by UAR and others.

Signatory organisations should look together at ways of balancing communications, providing guidance, and taking steps to move current discussions within the sector into the public domain.

1.2

We recommend that signatories consider implementing the best practice examples illustrated here within their own organisations, leading to expansion and greater uptake of these practices over the next year.

UAR should provide opportunities for staff of Concordat signatories that do not conduct research themselves to visit animal facilities.

1.3

Organisations should respond to enquirers directly wherever possible, and have FAQ material available to provide responses to common questions quickly.

Reception and other frontline staff should be clear about how to respond to enquiries about animal research.

1.4

Signatories should consider creating and adopting policies in connection with their partnership work.

2.1

In the future a basic policy statement will be a condition of signing up to the Concordat, ensuring that by next year all signatories have clear public-facing policies around the use of animals in research.

Signatory organisations should put into the public domain as much information as possible about their animal research and the decisions taken to support it.

Organisations that support animal research are encouraged to share the proportion of grants awarded that use animals, so that it is clear how this research is funded.



2.2

While it is always good to be prepared, we discourage the use of 'holding statements' to the media. Signatories should aim to be specific and clear about the animals used and the reasons why.

While CROs do not produce press releases about their work, we hope that they will be upfront about their animal work when discussing their work in general. CROs should expect their clients to be clear with media and with others about their use of animals, even when they are a step removed from the research itself. 'Supporting' organisations (as opposed to those that carry out research) should continue to share good practice and encourage media engagement with the research community.

2.3 & 2.4

There should be greater access to regular media training courses run by UAR, SMC and others.

More contact is encouraged between communications teams and animal work, through either the animal unit or AWERB

More early-career researchers should be trained to speak to the media about the use of animals in research. Clearer guidance is needed for commercial organisations on practical and open media engagement. Organisations that have not yet taken steps to support staff to engage with the media should be given opportunities to meet with those that have.

2.5 & 2.6

All signatory organisations should actively endorse either the ARRIVE guidelines or another good practice standard, and take steps to ensure that they are adhered to, for example, as institutional checks and sign off for publications.

Learned Societies should take steps to support ARRIVE guidelines and good publication practice through their journals' reporting requirements.

Grant awarding bodies should explicitly require compliance with such guidelines through their application process.

Commercial organisations often follow their own guidance (10% of respondents), but it is important that clear steps are taken to ensure that reporting standards are transparent and are maintained.

3.1

More collaborative working is needed to support organisations to share ideas and develop communication tools around their animal research.

Training sessions on working with media and communicating in plain English are needed to help organisations with their communications.

Specific support to aid collaborations within the commercial sector and to support their development of public-facing communication tools is needed.

3.2 & 3.3

Organisations should adopt guidelines that support researchers and others planning public engagement events around animal research.

Structured engagement activities such as UAR's Open Labs should be publicised more widely to Concordat organisations, and support given to help research organisations engage with school and community groups directly. Organisations interested in participating in these activities should contact UAR.

In last year's annual report the Steering group provided some aspirations for the Concordat, which stretch beyond good practice, focusing on areas where there are particular barriers to implementation. These were challenges posed for those who are further ahead in their openness to work with and lead on:

- Better communications within the sector
- Support for scientists and technologists to talk about their work
- More accessible information for the public
- Communications that reflect the true experience of animals; covering care, welfare and harms
- Increased public awareness of animal research, which drives good practice and supports animal welfare

There are sixteen more signatories in 2017 than there were in 2016, and not all have had the capacity or opportunity to lead the way with regard to openness, but we feel that the sector has shown a step change, which is beneficial to all those with an interest in greater transparency around the use of animals in science.

MEASURING ACHIEVEMENTS

Aims and ambitions for the new Concordat were established in 2012 when the Declaration on Openness was published. Aims were to:

- Support confidence and trust in the life-sciences sector
- Build open dialogue with the public on the reality of the use of animals in scientific research
- Develop principles of openness and practical steps that will support greater transparency about the use of animal in research

The Concordat was constructed by two governance groups. The Steering Group provided strategic guidance and direction, whilst the Working Group, representing aspects of the life-sciences sector, drafted wording of the Concordat that would be inclusive, yet meaningful for the sector. Input from stakeholders and wider public was provided

through a Public Dialogue and a Public Consultation process.

Objectives of the Concordat were to:

- Improve public access to information about what happens to research animals and why
- Raise the expectation of openness and transparency around the use of animals in research for research organisations, their funders and supporters
- Recognise and champion best practice in openness
- Provide better quality and more accurate information to media
- Alert the research community to the risks of secrecy, and provide support for greater transparency
- Gain buy-in for greater openness from the top-down and bottom-up

The initial phase of the Concordat, which launched following 18 months of development, was to last three years before it was reviewed to account for progress and the current landscape.

CONCORDAT SIGNATORIES IN 2017

In May 2017 there were 116 signatories of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK, of which three had signed up recently and were not required to complete a return. Survey data was returned by all 113 organisations that had been signatories for over a year.

Concordat signatories work across the Life-Science sector, with universities that use animals in their academic research comprising over one-third of responses. Sixty-four research organisations make up just over half (57 %) of signatories, while organisations that fund or directly resource those that use animals in research made up the remainder of signatories.

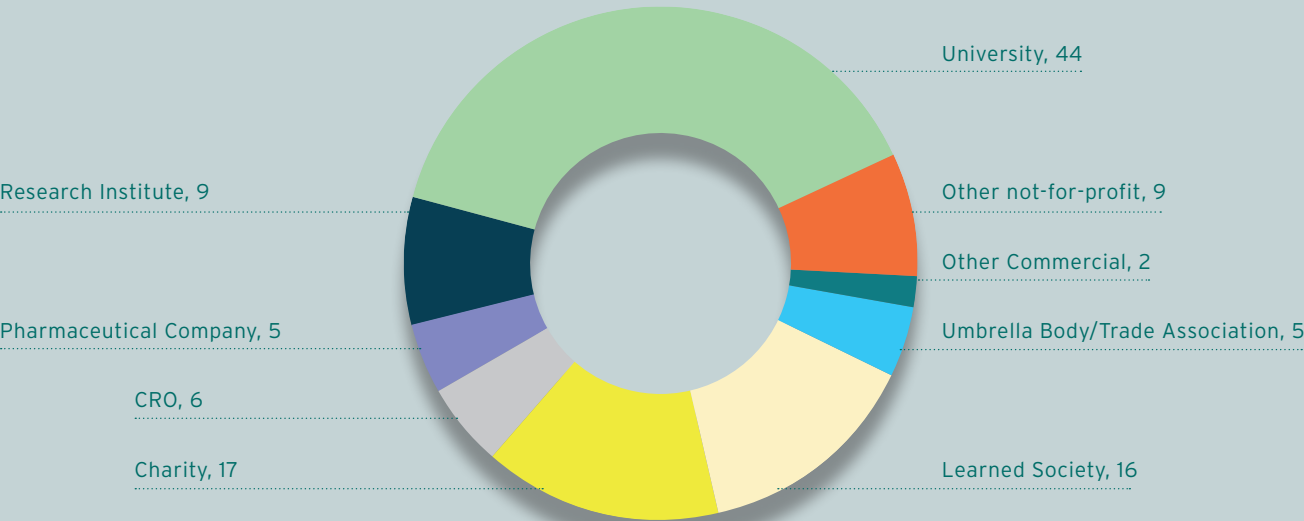
Currently, only those organisations that undertake research on animals, or directly operate as part of that sector by providing resources that allow animal research to take place are eligible to sign the Concordat on Openness. All Concordat signatories currently operate in the UK.





CONCORDAT SIGNATORIES IN 2017

In May 2017 there were 116 signatories of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK, of which three had signed up recently and were not required to complete a return. Survey data was returned by all 113 organisations that had been signatories for over a year.



COMMITMENT 1

WE WILL BE CLEAR ABOUT WHEN, HOW AND WHY WE USE ANIMALS IN RESEARCH



Our culture around animal research has shifted significantly since we became a signatory to the Concordat. In previous years it was common for animal research issues to be dealt with behind closed doors and those involved in such work were resistant to becoming more open. It is now accepted that animal research projects are dealt with transparently and we take pride in showcasing the important research we do in public forums and online. -

UNIVERSITY

Signatories cited a range of successes under the Concordat, often relating to their own achievements during the past year in creating new initiatives and increasing engagement activities. Each of these notable activities has significant impact on their institutions, and steps are being made to capture these experiences as case-studies on the Concordat website concordatopenness.org.uk.

The principal barriers cited to being clear about the use of animals in research were the comfort level of individual researchers in discussing their use of animals, especially those who had previously been targeted by the animal-rights movement (n=8), and the resources required to invest in greater communications and engagement practices (n=8). Institutional barriers such as corporate communications strategies, and continuing scepticism about the benefits of openness among senior managers and board members were also cited as significant by signatories (n=7). One institution has an intense campaign running against it, related to greater transparency about aspects of its research, and this has been a significant barrier to communicating further about its research.

Smaller learned societies and trade bodies find active involvement with the Concordat difficult as they do not conduct research and are extremely limited in their resources. These organisations would like clearer guidance as to their expected involvement in supporting the Concordat (n=5).

1.1 HARMS AND BENEFITS

The Concordat is about openness, and signatories should present the reality of scientific research using animals. The research is highly regulated and organisations go to great lengths to ensure that their animals are well cared for. However, knowledge of best practice in animal welfare is developing all the time and is imperfect. Animals that are used for research licensed under the Animals in Scientific Procedures Act (ASPA) are, by definition, likely to suffer pain, distress or lasting harm at some point to further research knowledge. Benefits of the research will always be weighed against the harms to the animals by an organisation's AWERB and by the Home Office, but should not be glossed over or understated in a public justification of animal research. The Concordat seeks a more balanced conversation and public framing of acceptability around the use of animals in research, which can only happen through providing balanced information.

This is possibly the most difficult area of the Concordat for signatories. It is the role of all organisations and their communications teams to highlight publicly appealing aspects of their work, and to avoid more difficult topics. While there are frequent discussions of the harms and relevance of particular protocols and models within the sector, little of this conversation is communicated to the public, largely because the messaging is too complex to be easily relayed to lay audiences.

We are good at publicising the benefits of animal work with respect to human disease, but find it difficult to mention the severity of procedures. However, we have published a new article about cancer research which included images of tumours in mice. -

RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ideally, organisations will embed discussion of harms and limitations into communications around the use of animals in research. This is done by several institutions through fact-sheets, images of procedures and videos. Case-studies and lay project summaries also allow for discussion of harms in the context of the research. The Home Office Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) now collects information about the actual severity experienced by animals in scientific procedures, providing a context and starting point for organisations to proactively discuss harms, and some institutions now publish actual severity figures alongside numbers and species of animals used on their websites.

This area remains a challenge for the sector, but one which is highlighted to signatories, and best practice under the Concordat means acknowledging harms and limitations with steps taken to communicate these ethical challenges to the public. Attention should be paid to language used to describe animal research, which should not overstate benefits and welfare or understate harms. Images and videos should show the reality of research, including implants and tumours if these are a requirement of the protocol. Examples of where this has been done are available on Concordat signatory websites, but are sector-leading, and their approach has yet to be widely adopted.

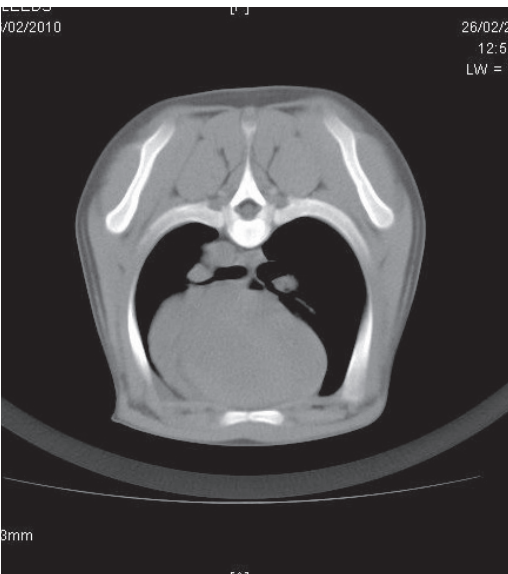
1.2 STAFF AWARENESS OF INVOLVEMENT WITH ANIMAL RESEARCH

Signatories are expected to make their position on the use of animals in research clear to all staff, and to encourage conversation and discussion around this issue. It is now strongly recommended that information about the use of animals in research is provided during staff induction, and that staff newsletters and other communications include research on animals. Staff from non-research departments should be provided with opportunities to visit animal facilities and understand how the animals are used and cared for.

We hope that signatories will provide their staff with the opportunity to engage with the public on the use of animal research, explaining why it is considered important and developing the conversation about the ethics of animal welfare. UAR provides training on several aspects of communicating with the public, which is available to all Concordat signatories, and some organisations provide in-house training through their own communications teams or external providers. AMRC training was noted and used by the research charities.

Institutions varied in the level of training they provided to their staff, with some providing it on an as-needed basis, and others encouraging staff to take up training and engagement opportunities. UAR communications training was cited as helpful by signatories, and 25 mentioned attending these courses. Some signatories now include sections on the use of animals in research in their in-house communications training.

Yes, [we provide training] but on a limited basis and with the more confident members of the team who understand well what goes on and are actively involved in the research programmes. - CHARITY





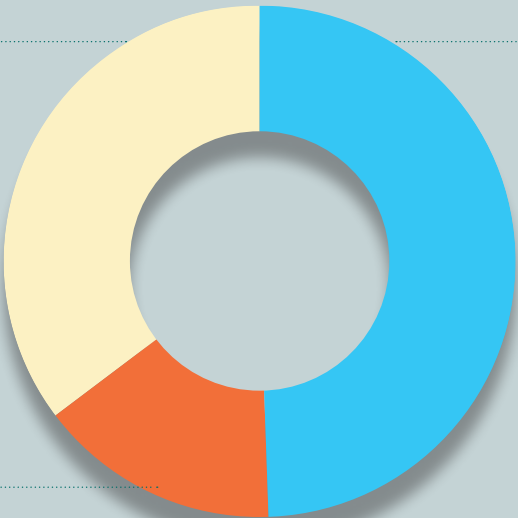
ORGANISATIONS THAT PROVIDE STAFF WITH TRAINING TO ENGAGE WITH PUBLIC ON THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

Institutions varied in the level of training they provided to their staff, with some providing it on an as-needed basis, and others encouraging staff to take up training and engagement opportunities. UAR communications training was cited as helpful by signatories, and 25 mentioned attending these courses. Some signatories now include sections on the use of animals in research in their in-house communications training.

Not currently, 37

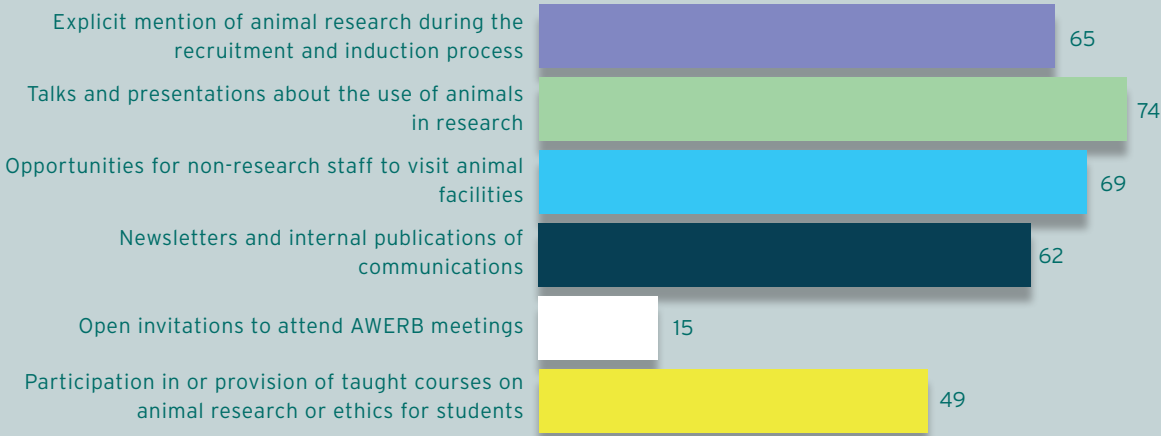
Yes, 2

We have plans to provide training in the future, 16



HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR USE OF OR SUPPORT OF ANIMAL RESEARCH CLEAR TO RESEARCHERS, STAFF, STUDENTS OR SUPPORTERS?

Signatories are recommended to expressly mention the use of animals during the induction process, as it ensures that all staff understand the organisational position on the use of research animals, and 58% of signatories (n=65) now do this. This approach has proved successful with both research and non-research organisations, ensuring that the same message reaches everyone regardless of their role in the organisation.





When asked how their position on the use of animals in research was communicated to staff, students or supporters, 65% (n=74) of signatories indicated that they provide information about animal research to staff through presentations and workshops, while 61% (n=69) give non-research staff the opportunity to visit animal facilities. Visits to animal facilities are important in allowing those not directly involved with the animals to fully understand how animal facilities are run, and how the animals are looked after. Over the past year, UAR has arranged for staff from non-research Concordat organisations to visit animal facilities of other institutions, ensuring that more organisations could participate in this engagement.

Staff are given relevant information via a bespoke presentation and are encouraged to visit our animal facilities and see for themselves the work being performed. Information regarding the work that we do, including the legislative framework we adhere to is also presented and available to all staff via our intranet. - **PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY**

Signatories are recommended to expressly mention the use of animals during the induction process, as it ensures that all staff understand the organisational position on the use of research animals, and 58% of signatories (n=65) now do this. This approach has proved successful with both research and non-research organisations, ensuring that the same message reaches everyone regardless of their role in the organisation.

Open Animal Welfare Ethical Review Bodies (AWERBs), which allow interested staff to observe or participate in the meetings, are only held by a small number (n=15) of signatories, but are extremely helpful in communicating the nuanced and complex ethics of using animals in science, and are recommended to Concordat signatories. As some organisations indicated that they are moving towards open AWERB meetings we expect to see more of them in the future. Some non-research organisations also found it helpful to have open meetings that allow for ethical discussions on the use of animals in research, allow staff to ask questions and give voice to their views.

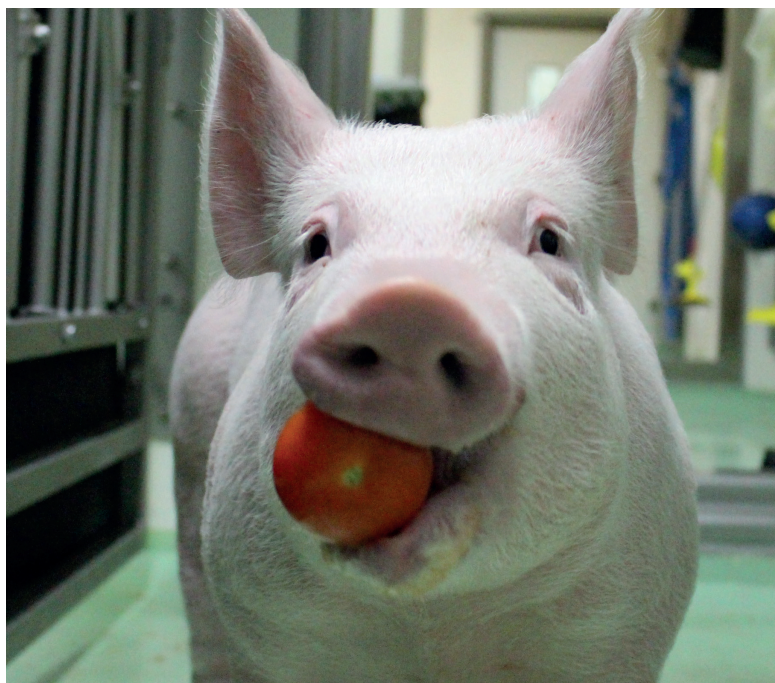
We give semi-regular (approximately annual) all staff briefings on the use of animals in research. We outline the role this research plays in our industry, the importance of the 3Rs, and the work that our organisation does in relation to animal research. We have found this is a really good opportunity for staff to ask open and honest questions, and to kick start ongoing discussions on this topic. - **UMBRELLA BODY**

We raise awareness of animal research internally through animal research seminars... where researchers discuss their work and we now offer facility virtual tours to all campus staff (we've so far hosted two), which are advertised on our internal message boards and campus newsletter. We also use our intranet site to disseminate information, including redacted AWERB minutes. This last year we have introduced a system for invited observers to attend our AWERB meetings. - **RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

1.3 EXPLAINING THE INVOLVEMENT WITH THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

Concordat signatories are expected to proactively provide information to the public on the use of animal research. Most organisations communicate proactively by providing information through their own websites, but where there are confidentiality issues or other practical reasons why this proves difficult, information can be placed in the public domain through third parties such as UAR, the AMRC, NC3Rs, IAT or learned societies. The information provided by institutions includes details about the numbers of animals used, images and video of research animals, and lay summaries of research projects that mention the animals involved. This is an important aspect of the Concordat, which has changed public access to information about how and why animals are used in research. Interested members of the public are now able to hear directly from a range of research organisations and funders, rather than from spokespeople.

News about animal research and new breakthroughs was the most commonly provided information, along with articles about animal research or the 3Rs. Around half of signatories (n=56) provided lay summaries of research that they had undertaken or funded, and research organisations often detailed the numbers and types of animals used in their research (n=49). More than one third of organisations (n=45) provided images of research animals, but they tended to show stock (breeding) animals in facilities rather than animals undergoing procedures (n=14).



PROACTIVE PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

Of the research organisations that are signatories of the Concordat (n=64), the majority (n=40) proactively published details of the numbers and species of animals used in research through their own channels, while two thirds (n=44) published lay summaries of the research projects they undertook. However, only a few published video footage (n=10) or images of animals undergoing procedures (n=9).

Six organisations stated that they were publishing new or updating existing webpages to provide information about numbers of animals, species used and provide minutes of AWERB (ethics) meetings in the near future.

A small number of organisations stated that they provided information to the public through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and through publication in academic journals. Neither of these activities proactively provides information, as they are part of the usual business of a research organisation. However, in some cases FOI requests form the basis of a public-facing FAQ, ensuring that the answers are accessible to other interested parties.



Aside from websites, signatories highlighted important work through face-to-face engagement with the public using workshops, careers fairs, school visits and open days to discuss how and why their animals are used in research.

REACTIVE PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

Concordat signatories are recommended to have policies and procedures governing how they respond to requests for information about their use of animals in research from members of the public or other interested parties. Most signatories (n=90) have a procedure (albeit informal) in place for ensuring that requests for information about their use of animals in research are answered fully.

Charities have established procedures for dealing with enquiries from members of the public and often have robust systems in place for providing an appropriate level of information to all enquires.

All enquires would normally be directed to me, the Research Manager and I would answer honestly and openly. We also have a standard answer sheet for members of staff should they receive a direct enquiry from the public.

- CHARITY

Processes for dealing with enquiries varied by sector, with non-research organisations receiving few requests relating to the use of animals in research. In many commercial organisations, requests for information would be handled by a central communications team, and may or may not involve liaison with those involved directly with research, or those responsible for the Concordat.

We do not have a formal policy as we are a small organisation. However, the communications team work closely with our policy team to respond to any inquiries on the use of animals in research, when we will seek to be as open as possible. We have had very few direct inquiries on this topic in the last year.

- TRADE ASSOCIATION

Academic institutions are subject to FOIA and enquiries are handled by the FOI or communications teams in many establishments, but some provide an additional process for answering questions or responding to concerns about the use of animals in research.

We have a dedicated email address for enquiries about animal research, which is featured prominently on our website... These emails are monitored by myself as Concordat contact and dealt with appropriately. Where possible, we will try to respond to enquiries directly. Extended enquiries will be forwarded to the University's records management team which deals with Freedom of Information requests. - **UNIVERSITY**

Signatories now respond more openly to direct requests to information about their use of animals in research than in previous years, and the development of policies and procedures has ensured that staff are equipped to handle any requests honestly and transparently.

1.4 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Partnership working was raised as a barrier during the development of the Concordat, as signatory organisations may have expectations of openness that are not practised by organisations that they work in partnership with. Signatories, particularly research organisations, are recommended to have a policy for partnership working to mitigate risks of confusion, and this approach has been adopted by 14 organisations.



The partner may not always be willing to share our level of openness. [We] are proud to support the openness and be a signatory of the concordat however not all companies that we work with are of the same opinion. - **COMMERCIAL SECTOR**

In 2017 signatories feel that difficulties in this area are rare, and most do not see partnership working as a barrier to openness. Contract research organisations have confidentiality clauses built into their contracts, and so are unable to discuss the specific research that they carry out, but this is relevant to all aspects of their research, and is not specific to animal research.

We are explicit in our agreements with other organisations that we expect partners to share the values of our organisation, which includes our values around animal research and openness. - **UNIVERSITY**

Although this is a challenge, so far we have been able to address this by taking a case-by-case approach. We continue to work closely with researchers and press officers from funded institutions to support them in talking about their animal research. We are also working with non-signatory universities in the UK, but which have [our]-funded researchers, to encourage them to sign the Concordat and also to fully explain animal research in their press releases. - **FUNDER**

Many academic signatories feel that most of their research partners are also Concordat signatories, with similar expectations regarding openness, which has reduced difficulties around partnership working. Several organisations feel that there can, however, be differences in approach when working with non-signatory organisations. This year, for the first time, academic signatories indicated that some organisations require their collaborators to be Concordat signatories.

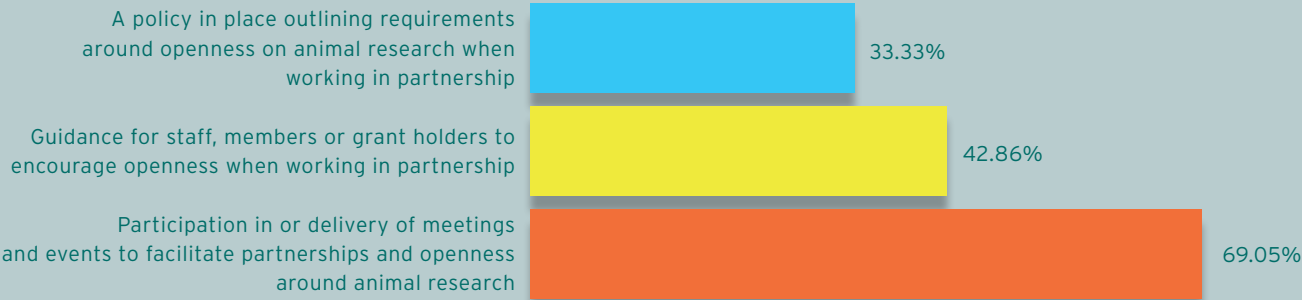
Concerns over privacy, safety and the potential for negative publicity to impact share prices within the private sector can also be limiting for academic institutions that they fund or work with. In these instances policies on partnership working and openness can be particularly helpful in supporting greater openness within commercial organisations.





HAVE YOU IMPLEMENTED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PRACTICES TO SUPPORT OPENNESS WHEN WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)?

Partnership working was raised as a barrier during the development of the Concordat, as signatory organisations may have expectations of openness that are not practised by organisations that they work in partnership with. Signatories, particularly research organisations, are recommended to have a policy for partnership working to mitigate risks of confusion, and this approach has been adopted by 14 organisations.



COMMITMENT 2

WE WILL ENHANCE OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC



[There have been] occasions where a partner organisation or an individual researcher didn't wish to be public about the use of animals but then agreed to do so after we explained that it was our policy and we wouldn't issue a press release without it. One of our institutes had been reluctant to feature their use of animals on their website but have now gone all-out with some excellent web pages. - **RESEARCH FUNDER**

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the Concordat is the amount of information about animals in research that is now in the public domain, provided directly by researchers, their institutions, funders and societies. Support for the Concordat at senior level has led to a range of initiatives that show how and why animals are used, leading to better informed public discussion about the value of using animals in research.

Public engagement events, although resource intensive, have proved increasing popular and many institutions have developed ways that they can overcome barriers and showcase their animal research without taking visitors into animal facilities through a wide range of initiatives. Increasingly communications teams and individual researchers are active on social media, speaking directly about why they consider this work to be important, supported and championed by their institutions. Research and funding organisations are producing their own public-facing leaflets about their use of animals in research, and numerous organisations now work to actively engage media, working hard to accommodate requests when there are opportunities to show the types of animal research carried out.

For some organisations engagement with the media is more difficult. Pharmaceutical companies are often large, global organisations with communications principles and policies that are focused on an international market. While the UK may have shifted to a greater position of openness, their engagement with

media reflects their understanding of global affairs leading to concern and caution. The commercial research sector has been slow to directly engage with the public through either traditional or social media, but over the past three years Contract Research Organisations (CROs) have developed bolder programmes of engagement, and we are hoping to see the results of this openness supporting public understanding of the poorly understood role of animals in pre-clinical and toxicological tests. Understanding the role of toxicity testing is particularly important, because of its direct connection with human health and safety, which make the ethical decisions involved relatively accessible to public. Although global policies and corporate constraints can limit the possibilities for proactive communications within the UK, many of the commercial organisations have active outreach and public engagement programmes which are supporting greater openness within local communities.

Only last year it would have been inconceivable to imagine that we might entertain the media in our animal facility. - **UNIVERSITY**

For public and third sector organisations time is the greatest barrier to clear proactive communications about the use of animals in research. Several are still working on their engagement programmes and communications strategies, and these can be pushed back due to other priorities. There is still some nervousness among researchers and senior managers about discussing animals in science, but as the examples of clear and transparent engagement from across the sector increase this caution is reducing its hold.

The learned societies have a key role to play in encouraging their members to be more open about their use of animals in research, and in supporting those who speak openly about their methods, models and work towards the 3Rs.

2.1 POSITION STATEMENTS ON ANIMAL RESEARCH

In 2017 all Concordat signatories (n=113) have a position or policy statement about their use of or support for the use of animals in research. These statements are a requirement for sign up, and for continued participation in the Concordat for all signatories, regardless of size or organisational type. The statement should set out the organisation's ethical position on the use of animals in scientific research, and UAR is provided annually with an updated link to each statement, so that the portal page which connects to each one can be maintained on the Concordat website.

It is recommended good practice that signatories, particularly research organisations, develop webpages that give more information about the use of animals in research including numbers and species of animals used and examples of research projects in lay-language.

In 2017 52 organisations had webpages giving extensive information about their use of animals in research, compared with 47 in 2016. These websites take a significant investment of resource to produce, and require the confidence of institutional leaders who authorise the proactive release of information that was previously considered highly sensitive. The webpages host a wealth of information about research using animals in organisational context, and the public now has far greater access to information about what constitutes animal research and how it is done. In the past year new steps forward have been taken, including video footage of a wider range of species, and more images and video of animals undergoing procedures. The first of these webpages were developed by universities, but they are now found across the life-science sector, and are recognised as the best way to proactively provide information about the use of animals in research, and answer questions or concerns.

The following webpages have been selected to illustrate good practice, and to show the sector's investment in proactive communication on animal research:

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-integrity/animal-research/>

Imperial has created an impressive selection of animal research webpages. The University explains in great detail how and why it uses animals in its research. Case studies are illustrated with images and videos, and a section of the website is dedicated to the regulations and ethical review process that is associated with animal research. The website highlights the number and species of animals used at the University and has a section dedicated to the 3Rs which includes examples of research. The highlight of the website is the introduction page which contains a video dedicated to animal research at the University, and a rolling news section where you can find out about the latest animal research news at the University.

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/collections/animal-research/>

The University of Bath's animal research webpages are an excellent example of a website created without a large budget. The website contains information on how and why animal research is conducted at the University, including statistics, legal requirements, and 3Rs commitments. Case studies provide extensive information and are illustrated with images.

<https://www.covance.com/commitment/animal-welfare/our-commitment.html>

Covance is a great example of a non-academic animal research website. Covance explains why animal research is necessary and how it fits into the drug development pipeline. It gives extensive information about the company's 3Rs commitments and why animal welfare is of utmost importance to it.



These are just a small sample of the web-based information provided by signatories. A full list of all website statements is given in the appendix.

2.2 INCLUSION OF ANIMAL RESEARCH IN COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA RELEASES

In 2016 signatories were beginning to adopt formal policies detailing how animal research should be dealt with in media releases and media enquiries. This approach is recommended as good practice by UAR and the Science Media Centre as it ensures that expectations around openness are fully understood, and saves time in considering how a communications plan should be applied to media enquires when time is short.

Formal policies are helpful in setting out expectations for press releases and processes for visiting animal facilities, explicitly setting out how visits should be authorised and how long this process is likely to take. Adoption of these policies has been helpful in large and diverse organisations such as universities and funding organisations.

Last year 21 signatory organisations had media policies that set out how the details about research animals should be given in a press release. Mention of the species of animal used when relevant to the research is expressly required by eight organisations, and some require this to be stated in the first sentence. Other organisations stipulate that an image of the appropriate species must be included. Six organisations currently have such policies in development.

We will not issue press releases from our own press office, or approve press releases jointly issued with other organisations, if these do not make clear that animals were involved in the research, if this was the case. - UNIVERSITY

Mentions of animals are no longer removed from press releases, and clarity about animal research models used is required by many institutions, including those without formal policies. Twenty-five organisations now have formal or informal policies on the inclusion of the use of animals (where relevant to the research) in media releases, compared to 21 in 2016.

We do have an organisational policy on animal use and welfare which is available to all staff and discussed with relevant stakeholders. With any media release we do discuss the use of animals. - CRO

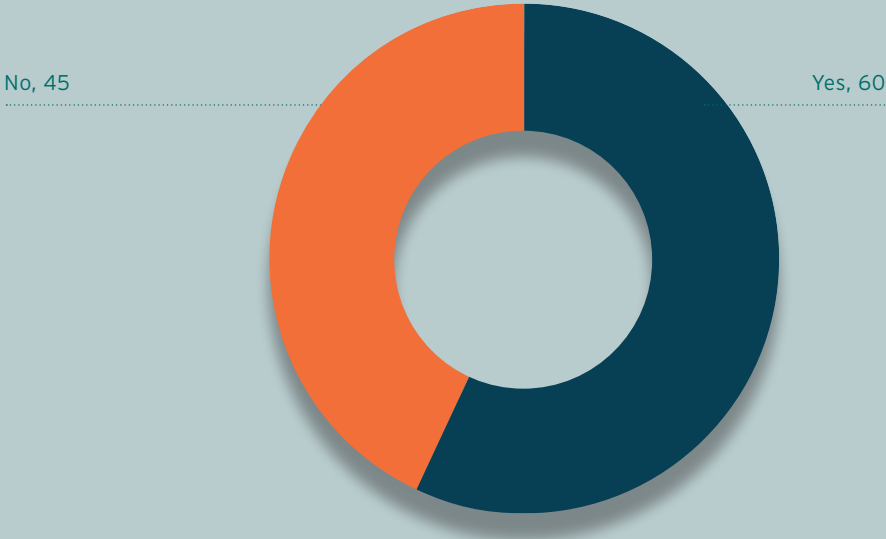
2.3 & 2.4 SUPPORT FOR MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON ANIMAL RESEARCH

In addition to their policy statements and webpages about the use of or support for use of animals, research organisations were also recommended to include mention of research that used animals (where appropriate) in official documents such as the annual report. These are public documents, and make the details of animals used in research clear to governing bodies and funders, showcasing the work that is done and being open about scientific methods used. A quarter of research-organisation signatories (n=26) now include explicit mention of their animal research in their annual reports. Some (n=22) research organisations make their use of animals in research clear to visitors and others through public-facing leaflets about their animal research or the Concordat.

An objective of the Concordat was to provide better quality and more accurate information to media about the use of animals in research, supporting coverage of stories about science, ethics and animal welfare. The aim was to improve the quality of public debate, and encourage NGOs, media and public to raise genuine criticisms and challenges to the research community.

**DO YOU PROVIDE MEDIA TRAINING FOR STAFF WHO WISH TO ENGAGE WITH THE MEDIA
ON ANIMAL RESEARCH?**

Concordat signatories are expected to have media-trained champions, who can respond to stories about the use of animals in research on behalf of their organisation, if necessary. In 2015 organisations had begun to provide staff with training to engage more effectively with media and public, specifically around the use of animals in research, and it was recommended that Concordat signatories supported staff engagement with the media by providing them with appropriate training. Media training to support staff to communicate about animal research is now provided by 60 signatory organisations, compared to 47 in 2016.





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Media training, delivered by the Marketing and Communications Office, is offered and provided as appropriate to support researchers and staff wishing to engage with the media. - **RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

We have established a number of 'Concordat ambassadors' who have all undergone/will be undergoing training and are prepared to be spokespersons to engage with the media if necessary. - **UNIVERSITY**

All but eight signatories (n=105) provided details of an individual who could represent their organisation in the media where the story concerns the use of animals in research. However, these individuals were sometimes very senior and may be difficult to contact at short notice. It remains important that staff with a good understanding of research and animal welfare issues are authorised to speak to the media. This can be particularly difficult in large pharmaceutical companies whose complex structures and highly procedural ways of working can be a barrier to engagement. The media operate on short time-frames and require organisations to relinquish full control of messages, which can be impossible for large commercial organisations.

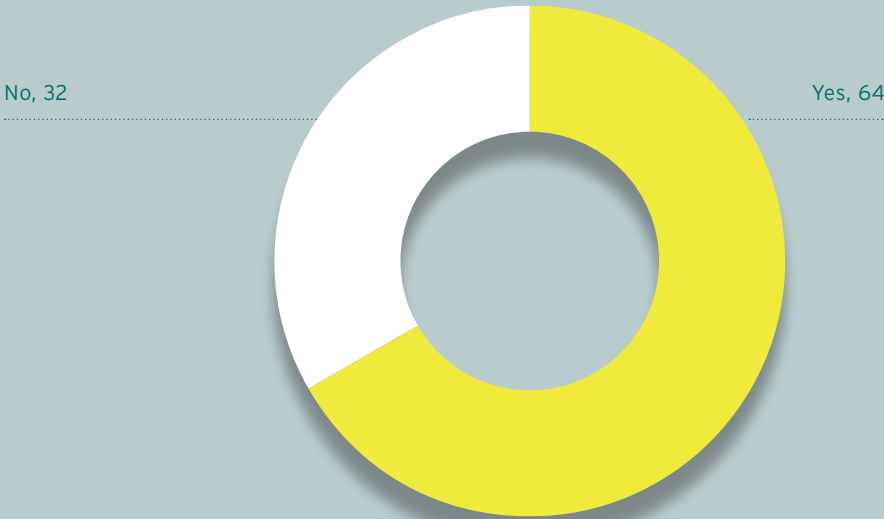
The overall picture around media engagement is positive. Many universities have trained champions who are authorised to speak to the media, and CROs have engaged with several media outlets to explore stories over the past year.

UAR and the ABPI have worked over the past two years to encourage greater media engagement by commercial organisations, and will continue to work with pharmaceutical companies and CROs to encourage them to work directly with journalists to provide public insights into their animal work.

2.5 & 2.6 GOOD PRACTICE IN PUBLICATION GUIDELINES

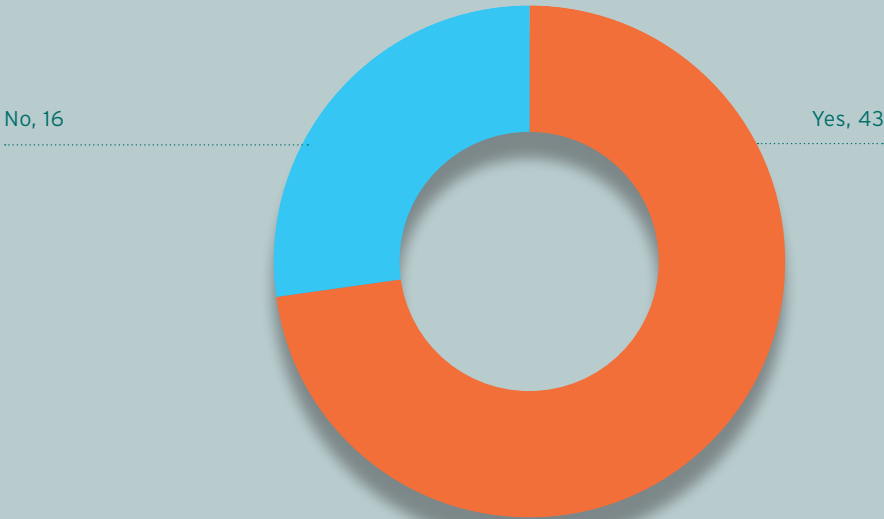
Since 2016, signatories have been recommended not only to require that publication good practice standards are met, but also to develop a process of checking that they have been adhered to in outgoing research publications.

DO YOU REQUIRE THAT ARRIVE OR EQUIVALENT PUBLICATION GUIDELINES ARE MET FOR RESEARCH THAT YOU FUND, PUBLISH OR CARRY OUT?



Since 2016, signatories have been recommended not only to require that publication good practice standards are met, but also to develop a process of checking that they have been adhered to in outgoing research publications.

DO YOU REQUIRE THAT ARRIVE OR EQUIVALENT PUBLICATION GUIDELINES ARE MET FOR RESEARCH THAT YOU FUND, PUBLISH OR CARRY OUT?
RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS



We expect them to be and highlight to our grant-holders the importance of the ARRIVE guidelines but it is hard for us to enforce our scientists to publish using them. - **CHARITY**

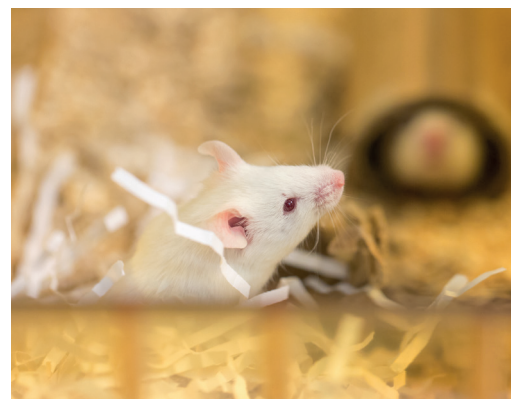
The submission guidelines for our new journal... require editors [to] ask that authors refer to the ARRIVE guidelines when reporting on in vivo experiments in animals. - **LEARNED SOCIETY**

We disseminate information about ARRIVE as widely as we can and provide all the necessary background information on husbandry etc. to researchers on our intranet. Ultimately we depend on the editorial policies of journals to enforce adequate compliance with ARRIVE. - **UNIVERSITY**

The majority of organisations (n=64) endorse the ARRIVE guidelines and actively encourage researchers to comply with them but a minority of research organisations (n=8) admit that adherence is difficult to enforce, and this is likely to be an issue in many organisations.

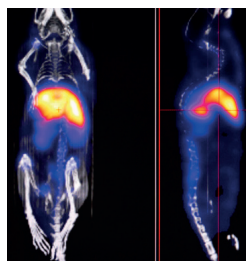
Funders stated that they expected researchers to demonstrate compliance with the ARRIVE guidelines, and were fully supportive of them, while Learned Societies actively supported ARRIVE through the publication guidelines of their journals. A small number (n=16) of research organisations stated that they actively enforce use of the ARRIVE guidelines, by checking papers before submission to ensure that they comply, while four more are developing such a process.

It is likely that Concordat signatories overstate their adherence to and enforcement of the ARRIVE guidelines, as despite their recognition as good practice and formal adoption by many institutions the number of publications meeting the ARRIVE guidelines remains low. Barriers to implementing the ARRIVE guidelines are thought to lie throughout the research process, from experimental design through to publication, and a policy of self-auditing papers for compliance with ARRIVE is now being developed within several institutions, but has proved difficult to put into practice.



COMMITMENT 3

WE WILL BE PROACTIVE IN PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO FIND OUT ABOUT RESEARCH USING ANIMALS



Signatories have developed some excellent and creative public engagement initiatives, which have created opportunities for members of the public to learn more about research using animals. At the launch of the Concordat public engagement initiatives did not look at the use of animals in research and institutions frequently turned down proposals as 'too risky'.

Exhibits that show or discuss animal studies now feature at science festivals and public events. Some signatories went further, with exhibitions and engagement activities that examined the relationships between people and laboratory animals. Organisations now have 'community days', providing their local communities with opportunities to understand their work.

Learned societies have developed initiatives with local secondary schools or students, inviting them to participate in meetings and conferences to learn more about how animals are used in research. Several organisations have developed career days and recruitment programmes that allow young people in their area to understand the life-sciences sector, how animal research fits into it, with a view to bringing the best and most dedicated young people to work in animal facilities in the future.

The main barriers to direct engagement with the public were the resources required to develop and run these initiatives and the frustration when groups were smaller than expected or failed to attend sessions. Some organisations have physical barriers that make it difficult to invite the public into their facilities or space, and have needed to develop creative ways of taking their research to public spaces. Pharmaceutical companies are beginning to develop engagement initiatives that will support opportunities for their communities to learn more about their research, and will support collaborations in outreach activities.

We have made preliminary approaches to other research institutions, companies, and academic centres in the local area to gauge interest in joined-up and coordinated communications about animal use. This is however in its infancy.

- PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY

Learned societies found it particularly difficult to develop opportunities for engagement, and would like to see further support or examples of how they can provide engagement opportunities to the public. Charities also find this work difficult, as culturally they have avoided speaking about their funding of animal research, but have great opportunities for public engagement as they become more confident in discussing the use of animals in research.

3.1 CO-OPERATIVE WORKING TO PROVIDE EXPLANATIONS OF ANIMAL USE IN RESEARCH

Signatories were asked to provide examples of where they had collaborated with other organisations to provide explanations and information around the use of animals in research.

As in previous years, a large number (46) of individual examples were given, showcasing a variety of public engagement and stakeholder communications initiatives such as joint initiatives to develop communications, and work on joint seminars and workshops to communicate about good practice in animal research.

Many of these collaborative initiatives have direct communications outputs such as joint press releases, or indirect outputs, such as joint development of an engagement strategy.

The examples given below represent a few of those provided by signatory organisations.

We work with colleges who provide animal care courses to explain the use of animals in research and the opportunities available within the industry. - **COMMERCIAL**

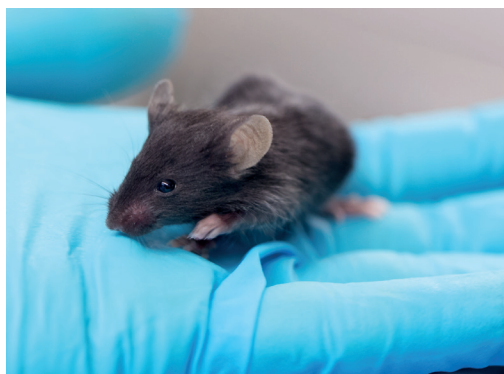
Science Festival public engagement- UAR attended this event on our AWERB 3Rs stand. Culture of Care Symposium co-organised by UBS NIO with MRC-LMB and CRUK-CI and hosted at CI. Hosted an AWERB hub Symposium with Welfare First. - **UNIVERSITY**

Produce publications and position statements on subjects including the 3Rs, Aseptic Surgery, Behavioural Laboratory Animal Science, AWERBs - all available to download from our website. - **LEARNED SOCIETY**

We have supported a schools 'sanctity of life' conference annually for around 10 years giving three presentations to groups of year 10 students (60-90 students in total who select attendance at [our] presentations). - **CRO**

3.2 ACTIVITIES THAT ENCOURAGE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ISSUES OF ANIMALS IN SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL AND VETERINARY RESEARCH

While the Concordat does not require that organisations allow visitors access to their animal facilities, doing so is a great opportunity to engage with key people and provides the best insight into how the animals are cared for. Proactive engagement is essential, as people need to know that it is possible for them to see a facility. Over 2017 we have seen an increase in the number of organisations holding 'family days' inviting small groups from their community in or providing opportunities for non-research staff to look around. An open opportunity for staff to sign up to quarterly tours is increasingly common, and is highly recommended for staff working in areas such as communications, where they are likely to respond to questions about the use of animals in research.



UAR has facilitated tours of animal facilities for staff or key people within non-research signatory organisations over the past year. Eight of these tours have now taken place, and feedback from participating organisations has shown the tours to be extremely helpful. This initiative will continue in 2018.

We hosted visits of students from the Netherlands which included veterinary nurses. We have hosted a student on an In2Science placement, and a visit from a journalism student from City University. We also have hosted visits to animal facilities by members of our Legal Services, Finance and Estates teams. - **UNIVERSITY**

Despite a reluctance to commit to allowing access to animal facilities during the development of the Concordat, many signatories now open their doors to special interest groups, school children, politicians and others.

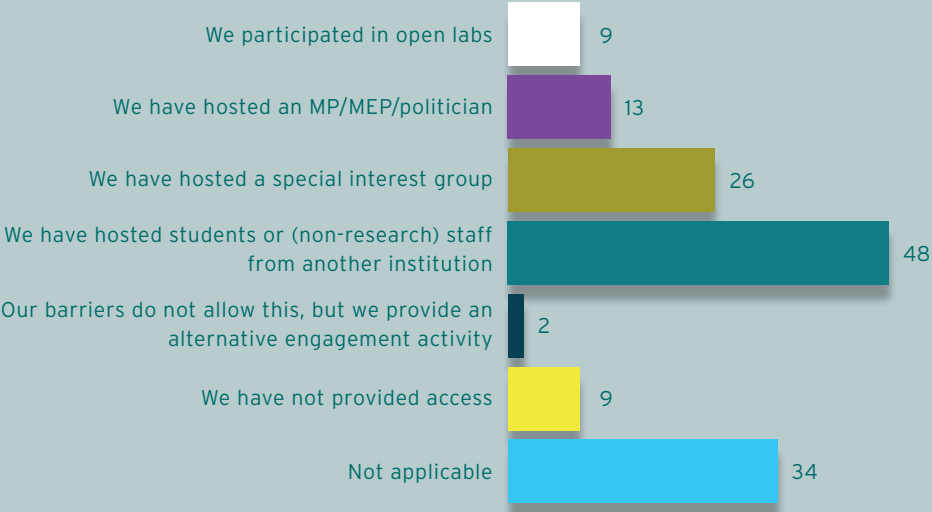
We are currently developing a Virtual Live tour of our animal facilities to make it easier for non-animal research staff to see inside of our facilities. It is envisaged that this will be used both for our own staff and for visiting groups e.g. students, school groups. - **UNIVERSITY**

There are animal welfare and health concerns with allowing large numbers of people into animal facilities, and new initiatives such as the 360 degree lab animal tour and fixed cameras allow groups to see inside animal facilities without crossing barriers, giving them better insights into what happens inside.



DURING THE LAST YEAR, HAVE YOU PROVIDED ACCESS TO YOUR ANIMAL FACILITIES TO VISITORS FROM OUTSIDE YOUR ORGANISATION (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)?

While the Concordat does not require that organisations allow visitors access to their animal facilities, doing so is a great opportunity to engage with key people and provides the best insight into how the animals are cared for. Proactive engagement is essential, as people need to know that it is possible for them to see a facility. Over 2017 we have seen an increase in the number of organisations holding ‘family days’ inviting small groups from their community in or providing opportunities for non-research staff to look around. An open opportunity for staff to sign up to quarterly tours is increasingly common, and is highly recommended for staff working in areas such as communications, where they are likely to respond to questions about the use of animals in research.



OUTCOMES OF THE CONCORDAT

While the principle of greater openness around the use of animals in research was not a new idea when the Declaration on Openness⁴ was launched in 2012, relatively few organisations provided open information about their use of animals in research. ASRU and the NC3Rs provided information, but this was intended for a life-sciences sector audience.

IMPROVED PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT 'WHAT HAPPENS TO RESEARCH ANIMALS AND WHY'

Prior to the Concordat many (70) research institutions had policy statements on the use of animals in research, but they were well-hidden on websites and were often difficult to find even when expressly searching for them, and few had further information about the types of animals they used and why. Institutions did not readily provide information about the numbers and species of animals used in research, which were the subject of frequent Freedom of Information requests. A handful of universities had webpages on their use of animals in research, including University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University of Leicester and University of York.

The life-sciences research funders (the MRC, BBSRC and the Wellcome Trust) provided information about the animal research they funded through their websites. Participants in the Public Dialogue were surprised how easy they found it to access information about the use of animals in research, but located that information at Understanding Animal Research and the Home Office websites, finding little elsewhere⁵.

There were few images of research animals in the public domain. The research community used a small number of images of stock animals, while the animal protection community used old and shocking images, usually of non-UK facilities. These were reflected in Google image searches, which greatly influenced public attitudes about research.

Now information about animals in research comes directly from research organisations, explaining the rationale and purpose of research projects, ethical considerations and efforts made to reduce, replace and refine the use of animals in research. We are beginning to see images of animals undergoing procedures, giving context to research, and 2017 has seen the launch of several videos that show animals undergoing research, or that allow exploration of animal facilities.



Sector leaders now include images and video of more controversial research, such as monkeys involved in neuroscience research and wearing head-caps, and signatories proactively provide information about their use of 'sensitive' species: dogs, cats, horses and non-human primates. This area will always be a challenge for the life-science sector, but by championing strong examples of openness about harms and limitations, transparency is improving, so that the information in the public domain is less polarised and gives a clearer picture of what happens inside research organisations.

More organisations openly discuss their research with staff and students, hold open days or make their facilities accessible through Open Labs and other initiatives. It is now important to ensure that balanced information that enhances public discussion and debate is available, and that research is presented openly rather than sanitised.

Many organisations, and their staff, are still uncomfortable with this level of openness, and fear that they or their families could be at risk by association with animal research. The safety offered by the experience and community of the Concordat has supported these organisations to discuss their research publicly, allowing more and more people to understand how and why animals are used in their local institutions.

⁴ <http://concordatopenness.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/declaration-on-openness.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.sciencewise-erc.org.uk/cms/assets/Uploads/1303480801UARopenness-in-animal-research-report-FINAL4-Nov-2.pdf>



RAISED EXPECTATIONS OF OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY AROUND THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH FOR RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS, THEIR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

In the past the expectation was that research organisations did not risk public scrutiny and remained quiet about their use of animals in research, resulting in FOIs and exposes. Although the Home Office publishes aggregated statistics on the numbers and species of animals used in research in the UK, it was impossible to find out which animals were used in particular facilities and why.

This information is now common-place, and it is rare to find a research organisation that provides no information about its use of animals in research. Many of the smaller research organisations and trade bodies would like to do more to contribute to openness about the use of animals in research, but have limited resources to develop websites and outreach programmes.

With 116 organisations signed up to the Concordat, there is now an expectation that life-science organisations will assume a minimal level of openness, as required by compliance with the Concordat: a big first step for many smaller universities or charities who have never spoken out about their animal research before.

RECOGNISING AND CHAMPIONING BEST PRACTICE IN OPENNESS

Those organisations who have discussed their research openly for many years have moved forward, taking greater steps and developing forward thinking outreach, engagement and media initiatives that now have the full support of their organisations.

The Openness Awards have provided a means of celebrating and rewarding good practice, which is often driven by dedicated individuals who are committed to changing attitudes in their organisations and championing the work done by the researchers and animal care

staff. The awards have grown year-on-year, and the decision to attach nominations to the Concordat reporting process has ensured that more organisations are aware that their innovations could be recognised. This recognition has created a competitive spirit within the life-science sector, as organisations aim to have new and innovative initiatives, and supports understanding of what represents current best practice.

PROVISION OF BETTER QUALITY AND MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION TO MEDIA

The accessibility of information about the use of animals in research has notably reduced media interest in this subject over the past three years. Since the launch of the Concordat there have been only a handful of significant media stories about the use of animals in research, but where things have gone wrong, or where technological innovation has occurred that media have reported the stories, supported by the research community.

There is no longer a need to send FOI requests to research organisations to discover which animals they use in research, as most now place that information into the public domain, and proactive media policies have led to a reduced need for reactive statements by the research communities, although researchers are available to comment on research stories.

Some signatories have become frustrated that with animal research no-longer being an issue 'in-itself' it can be difficult to raise media interest in openness initiatives that follow a large amount of work, and this has led to signatories focusing more strongly on public engagement and outreach initiatives, which are also viewed as lower risk.

It is now commonplace that research organisations require researchers to mention the species of animals used when reporting scientific findings, and mentions of research in mice, fish or monkeys is now usual in news reporting.

Our society increasingly accesses information through social media, and Concordat signatories increasingly discuss their animal research through social media channels as part of their communications strategies.

ALERT THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY TO THE RISKS OF SECRECY, AND PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY

In 2012 61 organisations signed the Declaration on Openness. When the Concordat launched 18 months later 72 organisations signed up. There are now 116 organisations signed up to the Concordat on Openness and more signatories join each year.

In administering the Concordat, Understanding Animal Research presents the strategic benefits of greater transparency and offers administrative support such as presentations and communications training to support signatories. This work is supported the Concordat organisations who provide both examples of good practice, opportunities to present to the scientific community about the importance of openness, and participation in collaborative events and workshops.

Recently the UK's movement towards greater transparency around the use of animals in research was featured in an article in *Science*, which questioned why countries such as the USA were so far behind the trend⁶. The conversation in the UK appears to have changed from one about the risks of openness to one about the risks of secrecy.

Visiting individual signatories has proved vital in allowing staff, particularly those who are sceptical about openness, opportunities to voice their concerns and to question the process. These meetings have been universally positive experiences, addressing researchers' concerns that their fears are disregarded by senior leaders and external organisations. In taking the Concordat forward, learned societies will increasingly play a role in supporting this objective, providing opportunities to speak directly to their members and support understanding of the benefits of openness.

GAIN BUY-IN FOR GREATER OPENNESS FROM THE TOP-DOWN AND BOTTOM-UP

The Concordat on Openness sought to change the culture of secrecy which had become endemic in the life-sciences sector's approach to speaking about animals in scientific research. Culture is driven from the top, and the change was initiated and driven through those working on behalf of the Concordat and senior managers in research organisations. Without buy-in at the most senior levels organisations were not able to commit to the changes or resources required to implement greater openness, but it is fundamental to the Concordat that openness gives all staff the opportunity to understand their organisation's ethical position regarding the use of animals in research and why that view is held.

Staff engagement has come a long way over the first three years of the Concordat, with the commercial sector leading with excellent initiatives to engage all staff, regardless of their role, in the principles and values that underpin their use of animals in research.

⁶ <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/07/woo-public-europe-opens-animal-experiments-us-less-transparent>



For the academic sector where communities are highly diverse, and there is still considerable fear of opposition to the use of animals and of targeting of research staff from within organisations, along with the practical complications of communicating with staff throughout large and distributed university structures, engagement of all staff and students has been slower. However, some research universities including University of Cambridge, University of Oxford and the University of Leicester are leading the way.

The charity sector has been slower to adopt a position of transparency around the use of animals in research due to concerns about targeting and limiting potential donations. The experience of the large research charities such as British Heart Foundation is that targeting by animal protection groups has no impact on donations, but charities are still nervous

of potential damage to their income and ability to further research through association with the use of animals in research. Many smaller charities do not have dedicated communications teams and require external support to build greater openness and transparency.

The commercial sector has been successful in engaging staff with the Concordat and their animal research. Initiatives such as Open AWERB meetings were developed in commercial organisations and are now being planned and used across the sector to support better staff engagement with the ethics of how animals are used in research, and to encourage questions.

CONCORDAT ADMINISTRATION



UAR'S PROVISION TO SIGNATORIES

SIGNATORIES WORKSHOPS

Since the launch of the Concordat UAR has held annual workshops to support signatories with some of the challenges associated with openness, and to provide an active, collaborative network. The events have addressed the pertinent issues for each of the three years: engagement for non-research organisations, barriers to openness and impacts of the Concordat.

The workshops have been held in central London and around 70 signatory representatives have attended each one. Feedback from these events has been very positive, and they have allowed signatories to share ideas and develop new directions for the Concordat.

OPENNESS AWARDS

Annual Openness awards have rewarded best practice around openness and transparency in the sector. Awards are given each year in four categories: Websites and new media, public engagement, media engagement and sector engagement and winners are selected from self-nominated entries by an awards committee.

Entries are judged on the basis of excellence (in use of text, use of images and leading best practice) and on the basis of openness (meaningful for the intended audience, honest about harms, limitations and ethics) and responsiveness to feedback and other views.

The awards ceremony takes place in December each year and winners are publicly recognised at the event and on the Concordat website.

An additional award is given to an individual who has been a notable leader within the sector, paving the way for greater openness by the life-science sector and providing the basis for the Concordat.



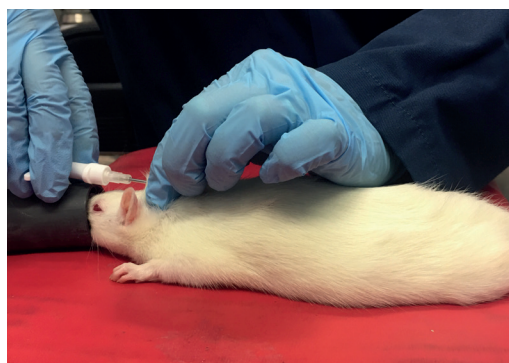
SITE-VISITS

Each year UAR visits Concordat signatories to discuss their strategies for openness, to support their plans and to advise on where efforts should be focused. So far UAR has made 21 visits to signatory organisations in 2017.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

During 2017, UAR organised two social media campaigns for Concordat signatories, with the aim to promote the Concordat to wider audiences, and encouraging Openness on social media amongst signatory intuitions.

The first campaign took place on 16th May to coincide with the Concordat's third anniversary. Using the hashtag [#ConcordatOpenness](#), signatories talked about the importance of the Concordat and shared their animal research related engagement activities. 35 Twitter accounts took part, including 28 signatory institutions. Animal research web pages were shared including videos and photos taken inside signatory research facilities. The second campaign was centred on the release of the Home Office annual animal research statistics on 13th July. Signatories used the hashtag [#AnimalStats](#) to share their animal research statistics on Twitter and highlight that these figures are publicly available on their websites. 40 signatories took part, sharing approximately 100 tweets, that mentioned why, and how animals are used in biomedical and veterinary research.



UAR organised three Reddit Science "Ask Me Anything" (AMA) sessions this year. The Reddit Science AMA Series was created to bring science education to the public with a goal to encourage discussion and facilitate outreach, while helping bridge the gap between practising scientists and the general public. This series is open to any practising research scientist that wants to have a candid conversation with the large and diverse Reddit Science community.

UAR collaborated with The Physiological Society to host an AMA to mark Stress Awareness Month. It took place on 13th April with Dr Karen Mifsud, a Senior Research Associate at the University of Bristol's Neuro-Epigenetic Research Group. Karen spoke about how she uses rats to investigate how the brain copes with stress, specifically the molecular changes that occur in the brain to facilitate adaptive behavioural responses, as a mechanism for coping with stressful situations. Her research is important for understanding how impairments in these processes may mediate the development of stress-related diseases such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Depression and Anxiety.

The AMA was well received by the Reddit community and gained almost 6,000 up-votes. Nearly 500 questions were submitted, including general questions about stress, in-depth queries about Karen's research, and the role played by animals in this type of work. Karen responded to 13 questions, covering topics such as the reversibility of environmental stress; the impact stress has on mental health; and how rodents exhibit similar stress coping behaviours to humans.

A second AMA took place on 20th July, with Prof Roger Lemon, recently-retired Professor of Neurophysiology at the Institute of Neurology, UCL. Roger used purpose-bred non-human primates (NHPs) to investigate why skilled hand movements are affected by brain damage as a result of conditions such

as stroke, spinal injury and motor neurone disease. NHPs are used in this research as they provide the best available model for the human sensorimotor system controlling the hand.

Roger's AMA received over 5,000 up-votes and more than 200 questions from the Reddit community. He answered 18 questions during his session on topics ranging from the use of NHPs in his work, regulations surrounding animal research in the UK, and queries about how the brain controls hand movement.

To mark World Alzheimer's Month, UAR organised a Reddit 'Ask Me Anything' (AMA) with Dr Mark Dallas on Wednesday 20th September. Mark is a Lecturer in Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience at the School of Pharmacy, University of Reading, where he has worked for four years. He is Academic Co-ordinator for the Alzheimer's Research UK Oxford Network, Neuroscience Theme Lead for the Physiological Society and on the editorial board of Physiology News. His main research interest is working to understand the mechanism by which our brains change, leading to devastating diseases such as Alzheimer's.

The AMA was up-voted over 300 times, and nearly 100 questions were submitted by Reddit users. Mark answered 17 questions which covered a variety of topics including in-depth queries about his research, general questions about Alzheimer's and prevention, and questions about the use of animals in research.

CONCORDAT WEBSITE

During 2017 UAR commissioned a new website to host information about the Concordat, so that it is easy to search and find out more about the Concordat in a single place, separate from the UAR website. This enabled the original vision of a 'portal' page leading to statements and webpages to be realised fully. The new website concordatopenness.org.uk was launched in May, at the anniversary of the Concordat.

The website contains a password-protected 'collaboration area' which allows signatories to work together and collaborate on documents, which will later be released into the public section of the website. Currently reports from the Summer Signatories' event are password protected, and will be available on the public area of the site before the end of the year.

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

When visiting signatory institutions UAR gives presentations to staff about the development of the Concordat, why it came about and what it means for institutions. Many organisations find it helpful for an external presenter to discuss the Concordat with staff, and to give the history of the Concordat, giving examples of good practice and success from other institutions. These presentations have been very helpful for providing information about openness work to individuals across institutions and societies.

Sometimes signatories prefer a presentation from an external speaker prior to signing the Concordat, to introduce the topic to staff, engaging them with the process.

UAR runs training workshops on different aspects of communicating about the use of animals in research for its members. These are typically aimed at researchers, but are also attended by vets, animal technologists, policy and communications staff, who may have been used to keeping quiet about their use of animals in the past. These workshops are open to Concordat signatories who are not UAR members (for a charge), and can provide the communications skills to support greater openness in institutions.



NEWSLETTER

Concordat signatories have asked for more shared examples of good practice, and how others have implemented openness in their institutions, particularly around some of the more challenging areas. A quarterly signatories' newsletter has been developed to support the sharing of best practice and to develop networking and mutual support among signatory institutions.

FACILITY VISITS

In 2016 and 2017 UAR worked with research institutes in London to provide animal facility tours to learned society staff who have not otherwise had opportunity to visit animal facilities. The tours were successful, providing the staff in learned societies with greater insights into the work of scientists who use animals. This initiative is expected to run again in 2018.

SIGNATORIES' FEEDBACK

Drawn from both survey responses and discussions during the Signatories' summer workshop.

AIMS AND STRATEGIES

Signatories wanted a clearer idea of the strategy and long-term goals of the Concordat. It was felt that now the initial three years are complete that new objectives would be appropriate. Some wanted clarity on how the Concordat was evaluated and what its aims were, and maybe a 'roadmap' with a vision of success.

PUBLIC PROFILE

Some signatories felt that the Concordat needed a higher public profile, through media engagement, a national day on openness or a relaunch to rekindle motivation and to drive greater participation through engagement with the public (this was particularly emphasised by the pharmaceutical sector).

RETURNS SURVEY

Signatories requested a review of the returns survey to make it shorter and easier to complete. A separate reporting process for research and non-research organisations was requested to simplify the forms. Organisations felt that the returns were a vital part of the Concordat that allowed them to leverage support and resources from institutions. The reports were helpful to show what was happening within the sector.

UAR'S ROLE AND AUDIT

In addition, non-research organisations requested more support with Concordat commitments. Some organisations wanted greater clarity on how UAR was working, the governance of the Concordat and how it operated behind the scenes. Some asked for more resources that they could share internally with staff to support training them in administration of the Concordat, though generally these resources are organisation-specific and so are developed internally by signatory institutions.

IMPACTS OF THE CONCORDAT

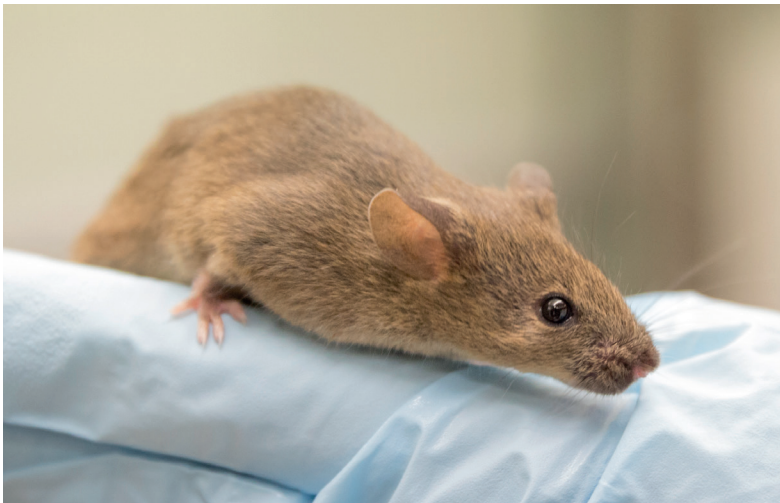
The Concordat has given us both the impetus and validation for being open about animal research. We are fortunate that we have top level support for our activities, however; the major success of the Concordat has been to encourage other organisations to become more open and helped provide examples of what this might look like. - **UNIVERSITY**

All but 2 (98 %) respondents considered the Concordat to be a successful initiative overall. Some felt that the change achieved was modest, but that it was still in progress, while others felt that the change over three years has been considerable. The Concordat was felt to have placed everyone on the same page regarding the use of animals in research, with shared practices, goals and agendas, but still needs greater buy-in from industry in terms of public-facing engagement.

Non-research organisations such as the learned societies felt that the Concordat had seen some impact on the research community, but had not yet impacted the public, and that public trust was a key indicator of success for the Concordat. There is not yet any evidence that public views of animal research have changed significantly.

The concordat has prompted organisations to take steps towards an open conversation on animal research. - **CHARITY**

The overall view was that the Concordat had provided a cohesive approach by the sector to communicating about its use of animals in research, and that while this was a significant achievement, it was still early days and there was more work to be done to achieve a real impact.



IMPACTS ON SIGNATORIES

The Concordat has given us both the impetus and validation for being open about animal research. We are fortunate that we have top level support for our activities, however; the major success of the Concordat has been to encourage other organisations to become more open and helped provide examples of what this might look like. - **UNIVERSITY**

Signatories were asked what they felt the greatest impact of the Concordat on their organisation was, and responses were themed.

ENABLING INTERNAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT GREATER OPENNESS

For some organisations the Concordat provided the benchmarks and comparisons that allowed conversations and discussions to take place, gradually leading to change. In some organisations this meant that Openness was always on the agenda, while others have established formal committee structures on openness.

VISION ACROSS SECTOR

The Concordat had ensured that comparisons were made with other organisations, bringing the sector together to change the conversation about openness and creating joined up thinking. This impact had particular bearing for non-research organisations.



RAISING THE PROFILE OF ANIMAL RESEARCH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

The increased profile of the animal facilities and the emphasis on visibility gave animal research and animal welfare greater priority among senior managers, who became keen to showcase their animal work.

RESEARCH STAFF AND TECHNICIANS HAVE GREATER CONFIDENCE

And greater pride in their work due to clear support and recognition from their institutions.

EASIER HANDLING OF INFORMATION AND ENQUIRES

Several organisations felt that they were able to handle enquiries about their animal research more easily and effectively due to the structures that they had put in place as a result of the Concordat. This aspect was an impact cited by both research and non-research organisations, as it included the (perceived) reduction in FOI enquires in publicly-funded research organisations such as universities. Open job advertisements and induction sessions had a positive impact on recruitment, as candidates for laboratory animal positions were better qualified and informed about the roles.

NO OR LIMITED IMPACTS

Some felt that there were limited impacts to date, either because their organisation had not engaged with the process, or because the Concordat reflected existing practice within an organisation but offered little new. Some commercial organisations in particular felt that after an initial push the Concordat had tailed off and had not produced real impacts. Those organisations citing few or no impacts corresponded with those seen as 'doing little' by others, and a new approach is needed to support those organisations to engage with the Concordat.

IMPACTS ON LIFE-SCIENCES

At this stage, the main impact is awareness of the importance and significance of the issue within the sector itself. Whilst change is slow and there is wide variance in how actively organisations are pursuing open agendas, there is much more prominent discussion and awareness of the issue of openness, even amongst those organisations that still have furthest to travel. - **TRADE ORGANISATION**

VISIBILITY AND AWARENESS

The Concordat has changed the public profile of animal research by placing more information into the public domain and keeping the issue visible within the sector. It has created increased awareness of animal research and given it profile and standing.

UNITY AND COLLABORATION

Organisations from across the sector have been brought together, sharing knowledge and best practice. They have collaborated and exchanged ideas productively to create better communications and work together more effectively.

MEDIA AND AUDIENCES

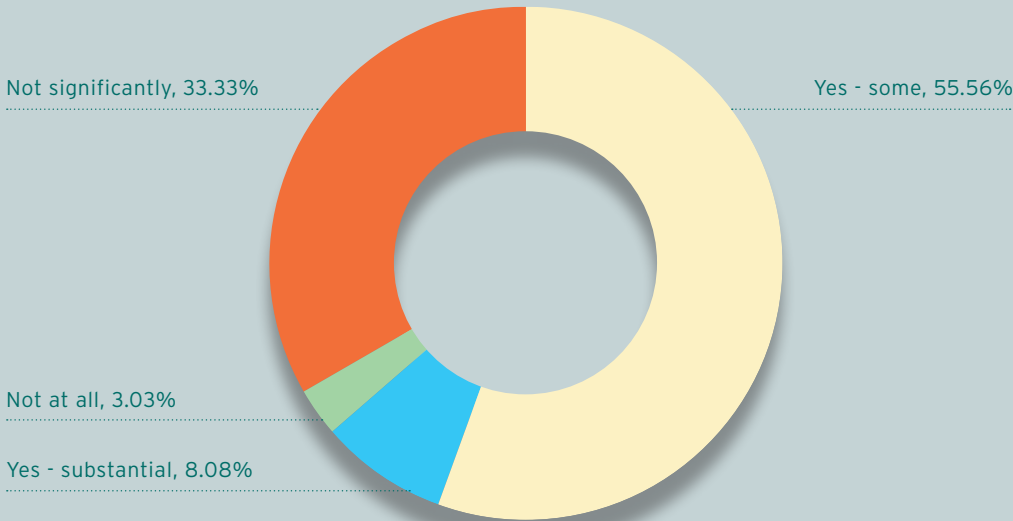
There is now (a perception of) greater understanding about animal research. More people are media trained and willing to speak, and the media seems less threatening. Animal research per se is now a non-story, and the science has become more important.

FEARS AND CONFIDENCE

The rhetoric used against researchers is now more reasoned, valuable and less aggressive. Outspoken attacks by animal rights groups have decreased, and animal research has normalised. Openness is no longer seen as a threat, and indeed is recognised to counter aggression. This has supported techs to talk about their jobs and highlighted the importance of animal welfare in research.

DO YOU FEEL THE CONCORDAT HAS HAD ANY IMPACT ON WIDER SOCIETY?

Some signatories felt that impacts were too hard to measure or that it was too early to say what they had been, but noted that the Concordat has received international recognition and note within the sector.





ANIMAL WELFARE

Several sources have cited a positive impact on animal welfare due to the increased profile of animal facilities, which has led to greater resource. Openness means being subject to public scrutiny and perceptions, and research organisations are keen to show their facilities in the best light, which in some cases has led to tangible improvements.

ON WIDER SOCIETY

Some signatories felt that impacts were too hard to measure or that it was too early to say what they had been, but noted that the Concordat has received international recognition and note within the sector.

EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Concordat was developed with the knowledge and support of several key organisations, independent to the life science sector. These critical friends have helped to steer the Concordat so that it has impact beyond the research community, bringing greater transparency about research to the public domain, as well as improved communications to life science sector organisations. These organisations were asked to comment on the progress of the Concordat to date.

“The use of animals in science is a matter of public interest and concern - this can result in barriers to the open provision of information. We recognise that the Concordat has been a contributing factor in shifting culture towards greater openness and transparency. As the UK regulator we welcome the commitment of the signatory organisations to breaking down barriers and to increased public understanding.” - **ANIMALS IN SCIENCE REGULATION UNIT (ASRU), UK HOME OFFICE**

“The RSPCA is pleased to see that so many organisations have committed to being more open about the animal research they fund or undertake. We have long supported this ideal and so have followed, and in many cases welcomed, the increase in information that has been put into the public domain, particularly via institutions’ websites. So far, this has largely focussed on topics such as the numbers and species of animals used at establishments and the areas of research involved, how these animals are housed and how their use is regulated.

However, whilst the steps taken represent progress - which has been significant for many organisations - for the goal of openness to be met there is still a need for everyone to do much better, especially when talking about actual procedures, the harms involved to animals and the limitations of animal ‘models’ and tests. These are understandably the most challenging aspects for signatories, but are pledges that they have signed up to and this information is essential if the Concordat’s stated aim of enabling people to “debate the issues from a position of knowing the facts and make up their own minds about animal research” is to be realised. Achieving such balance is critical in order for the process not to be undermined and to avoid fair criticism of it simply being a one-sided PR exercise”. -

RSPCA

“The Concordat on Openness on Animal Research has made a huge contribution to the public knowledge and understanding of the issues around the use of animals in research and with over 100 members from across industry, charities and research organisations, has demonstrated that those involved can work together to promote openness and transparency around this important issue.” -

OFFICE FOR LIFE SCIENCES, BEIS

TOP 10 GOOGLE HITS

Using a VPN so that search history was not tracked, the first websites appearing on Google for 'animal research' 12/10/2017 were:

1. Understanding Animal Research Homepage www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk
2. UAR: Animal Research (@animalresearch) Twitter https://twitter.com/animalresearch
3. Animal testing - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_testing
4. What is animal testing? Cruelty Free International https://www.crueltyfreeinternational.org/why-we-do-it/what-animal-testing
5. BBC - Ethics - Animal ethics: Experimenting on animals www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/animals/using/experiments_1.shtml
6. The Truth about Animals Used for Experimentation PETA https://www.peta.org/?s=issues
7. Animal experimentation Science The Guardian https://www.theguardian.com/science/animal-experimentation
8. Animal research University of Cambridge https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/research-at-cambridge/animal-research
9. What is Animal Testing? http://www.aboutanimaltesting.co.uk/thebasicscategory.html
10. Animal Research The Francis Crick Institute https://www.crick.ac.uk/research/animal-research/

The presence of research organisations in this list is a significant change from previous years, and shows that the public now has far greater access to information provided directly by those organisations that carry out research. The second page of links include pages from Concordat signatories the AMRC, the University of Nottingham, the Medical Research Council and the Babraham Institute. These results indicate that the websites developed under the Concordat are being used, linked to and shared through search engines. Although this process takes time we are beginning to see changes to the types of information that interested members of the public are exposed to.





REFLECTIONS, CHANGES AND NEW OBJECTIVES



The Concordat has represented a significant change to the UK life-science sector, and those involved with steering the project have been surprised by and proud of its success. Many signatories have embraced the principles of openness, often driven by individuals within large organisations who have worked hard to change an embedded culture and to embrace greater transparency about the work that they do.

The community created by the Concordat has created a sense of competition and a desire among the leading organisations to push boundaries, setting the bar high and really allowing those beyond their organisation to develop a fair impression of their work. In some cases business interests, preventing competitor access to information and even animal welfare concerns limit the ways that openness can be achieved, but the signatories have developed innovative ways to overcome barriers, and we are continually developing more ways to share this good practice, so that it can be adapted and used by others.

The use of video and of live non-recording cameras to show what it is really like inside previously inaccessible animal facilities, the community days organised by many commercial organisations, and the greater transparency about how establishments make ethical decisions about their use of research animals have been huge steps forward.

Not all 116 signatories lead the way on Openness. They are all very different organisations with differing pressures and concerns. Some had never spoken about their use of animals in science prior to signing the Concordat, preferring to keep a low profile and not attract attention. For these organisations taking the necessary internal steps to sign up to the agreement, and publicly stating that they use animals is a big step, while signing the Concordat brings them into association with others.

The Steering Group is looking at ways to recognise the work of those organisations who have fully embraced openness, and who are leading the way with innovative practices. Their changes to the way that they communicate on the use of animals in research has been responsible for driving change within the sector, which has inevitable further impacts on those who look after the animals, policy makers and public.

DEVELOPMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE CONCORDAT

Impacts are difficult to attribute to particular interventions, as there are often other forces at play, but the UK life-science sector has seen considerable change since the Concordat was proposed. Primarily the Concordat has galvanised the life-science sector's communications, giving them common goals and a platform to share and learn from one another. The Concordat, acting alongside other initiatives, has led to impacts on:

- Public access to information about animals in research directly from those who do the research.
- A greater understanding and appreciation for the role of animal care staff, both in and outside the sector.
- Increased profile of animal facilities within their establishments, leading to greater investment and better animal welfare.
- Better access to see inside animal facilities (for those interested in this work).
- Fewer reactive communications on the use of animals in research, due to more information proactively in the public domain.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Some areas have proved challenging for Concordat signatories, and must be addressed through focus and further support:

- Accurate communication of harms done to animals in research remains a difficult topic for the research community, and although some organisations take steps to provide balanced information, others could provide more.
- While many organisations comply with the Concordat, only a few are leading, and others should be encouraged to see the value in taking bolder steps.
- Non-academic organisations are reluctant to work with the media to explain their research to public audiences, and many establishments could do more to work openly with the press.
- The role played by non-research organisations within the Concordat should be clarified, and steps taken to ensure that the administrative processes provide for and are appropriate to them.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CONCORDAT

Since its beginnings in 2012 the Concordat has been fully established, and the communication of animal research has changed considerably. The aims of the Concordat will therefore be adjusted so that the third aim reflects ongoing work by the sector towards transparency.

AIMS OF THE CONCORDAT:

1. Support confidence and trust in the life-sciences sector.
2. Build open dialogue with the public on the reality of the use of animals in scientific research.
3. Foster greater openness and practical steps that will bring about transparency about the use of animal in research.

The objectives for the years 2017-2020 have remained broadly similar to those used originally, with objectives two and five altered so that they define intended audiences more explicitly.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONCORDAT:

1. Improve public access to information about what happens to research animals and why.
2. Raise the expectation of openness and transparency around the use of animals in research for research organisations, their funders and supporters.
3. Recognise and champion best practice in openness.
4. Provide better quality and more accurate information to media.
5. Alert the research community to the risks of secrecy, and provide support for greater transparency, highlighting its benefits for science, animal welfare and communications.
6. Gain buy-in for greater openness within practitioners and stakeholders in the animal research sector, from both the top-down and the bottom-up.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Overall, signatories were supportive of UAR's administration of the Concordat, which is run by two members of staff aided by the UAR team.

The Concordat Steering Group will continue to determine overall direction and to take key decisions on behalf of Concordat signatories. Steering Group members will serve three-year terms, and may serve two successive terms should they choose. Steering Group members are appointed as individuals for particular expertise. A list of current Steering Group members is available on the Concordat website.

REVIEW DATE

The terms of the Concordat and its impacts will be revisited in 2020 to determine whether changes should be made to the text of the Concordat, its administration or the objectives outlined above.



APPENDIX

ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING POSITION STATEMENTS ON THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

THE POLICY STATEMENTS ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM ONE ANOTHER, REFLECTING THE DIFFERENT CULTURES AND PRACTICES OF THEIR INSTITUTIONS.

Aberystwyth University <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/rbi/staff-students/ethics/animals/>
 Anatomical Society <http://www.anatsoc.org.uk/research/animals-in-research-policy-statement>
 Animal and Plant Health Agency <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/research>
 Animal Health Trust <http://www.ahtrg.org.uk/cms-display/animalresearch.html>
 Arthritis Research UK <http://www.arthritisresearchuk.org/research/research-funding-and-policy/our-research-policies/animal-research-policy.aspx>
 Association of Medical Research Charities <http://www.amrc.org.uk/our-work/animal-research>
 Asthma UK <https://www.asthma.org.uk/research/strategy/ethics/>
 Aston University <http://www.aston.ac.uk/research/research-strategy-and-policy/arrive-guidelines-for-use-of-animals-in-medical-research/>
 AstraZeneca <https://www.astrazeneca.com/sustainability/ethics-and-transparency/animals-in-science.html>
 Biochemical Society <http://www.biochemistry.org/Portals/0/SciencePolicy/Docs/The%20Use%20of%20Animals%20in%20Research%20October%202008.pdf>
 Bloodwise <https://bloodwise.org.uk/research/policies/animals>
 British Andrology Society <http://www.britismandrology.org.uk/resources/policy-guidelines/>
 British Association for Psychopharmacology https://www.bap.org.uk/position_statement.php
 British Horseracing Authority <http://www.britisshorseracing.com/regulation/veterinary-welfare/veterinary-info/>
 British Neuroscience Association <https://www.bna.org.uk/about/policies/#animal-research-policy>
 British Society for Immunology <https://www.immunology.org/sites/default/files/the-use-of-animals-in-immunological-research-position-statement.pdf>
 British Toxicology Society <http://www.thebts.org/news/animal-research-the-british-toxicology-societys-position/>
 Brunel University <https://www.brunel.ac.uk/about/administration/governance-and-university-committees/Animal-Research-at-Brunel>
 Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science <https://www.cefasc.co.uk/media/53223/animals-in-science-and-animal-welfare-nov-2017.pdf>
 Charles River Laboratories <http://www.criver.com/about-us/animals/animals-in-research>
 Cystic Fibrosis Trust <https://www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/the-work-we-do/research/animal-testing#>
 EPSRC <https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/about/standards/animalresearchpolicy/>
 Envigo <http://www.envigo.com/about-envigo/our-use-of-animals/animal-welfare-statement/>
 Eurogentec <https://secure.eurogentec.com/animal-facilities.html>
 Fera Science <https://www.fera.co.uk/standards-accreditations>
 The Francis Crick Institute <https://www.crick.ac.uk/research/animal-research/>
 The Humane Society <http://www.humanesociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-policies/>
 Institute of Animal Technology <http://www.iat.org.uk/animaltechnology>
 John Innes Centre <https://www.jic.ac.uk/about/research-integrity/#Animalresearch>
 Laboratory Animal Breeders Association http://laba-uk.com/site/?page_id=95
 Laboratory Animal Science Association http://www.lasa.co.uk/PDF/Concordat_on_Openness.pdf
 Laboratory Animal Veterinary Association <http://www.lava.uk.net/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=11>
 Leuka <https://www.leuka.org.uk/research/our-research-policies/>
 Lilly UK <https://www.lilly.com/animal-care-and-use>
 Medical Schools Council <https://www.medschools.ac.uk/our-work/research>
 Microbiology Society <https://www.microbiologysociety.org/uploads/assets/uploaded/10ff0f94-9296-4ea5-9cbb26ab65d62ec7.pdf>
 Motor Neurone Disease Association <https://www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/volunteering/volunteer-zone/your-volunteer-role/branch-or-group-volunteer/research-involving-animals/>

The MS Society <https://www.mssociety.org.uk/ms-resources/ms-society-policy-animal-research>
 Ovarian Cancer Action <http://ovarian.org.uk/our-research/animals-research/>
 Parkinson's UK <https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/about-us/animal-research-and-parkinsons>
 Pfizer https://www.pfizer.com/research/research_clinical_trials/laboratory_animal_care
 The Physiology Society <http://www.physoc.org/statement-use-animals-research>
 Robert Gordon University <https://www.rgu.ac.uk/file/statement-on-the-use-of-animals-in-research-pdf-113kb>
 Rothamsted Research <https://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/sustainable-agriculture-sciences>
 Royal Society of Biology <https://www.rsb.org.uk/policy/policy-issues/biomedical-sciences/animal-research>
 The Royal Society <https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2015/animals-in-research/>
 Sequani <http://www.sequani.com/Detail.aspx?page=Animal-Welfare>
 Society for Endocrinology https://www.endocrinology.org/media/1643/14-11_animalresearch.pdf
 Society of Experimental Biology <http://www.sebiology.org/animal-biology/animal-welfare-code>
 UCB <https://www.ucb.com/our-company/csr/reporting>
 UK BioIndustry Association <https://www.bioindustry.org/policy.html>
 Ulster University <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/research/institutes/biomedical-sciences/animals-in-research/university-principles>
 Universities UK <http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/Pages/research-policy.aspx>
 University of Aberdeen https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-research-and-knowledge-exchange/University_of_Aberdeen_-_Statement_on_Use_of_Animals_in_Research.pdf
 University of Bradford <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/governance/policies-strategies-statements/statements/>
 University of Dundee https://www.dundee.ac.uk/media/dundeewebsite/researchgovernanceandpolicy/documents/roa_statement_20150520.pdf
 University of Southampton <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/animals.page>
 University of Stirling <https://www.stir.ac.uk/research/integritygovernanceethics/researchethics/researchethicscommittees/awerb/useofanimalsstatement/>
 University of Strathclyde <https://www.strath.ac.uk/staff/policies/general/useofanimalsinbiomedicalresearch/>
 Veterinary Schools Council <http://www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk/news/position-statement-on-animal-research/>
 Wickham Laboratories <https://wickhamlabs.co.uk/animal-welfare/>

IN ADDITION TO THE LIST ABOVE, THESE RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS HAVE WEBPAGES THAT GO BEYOND THE REQUIREMENT FOR A POLICY STATEMENT AND OFFER DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH.

Academy of Medical Science <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/major-policy-strands/using-animals-in-research>
 Agenda Life Sciences <http://www.agendalifesciences.com/welfare-first>
 Alzheimer's Research UK <http://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/about-us/our-influence/policy-statements/animal-research/>
 Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry <http://www.abpi.org.uk/our-work/mandi/Pages/animals-research.aspx>
 Babraham Institute <https://www.babraham.ac.uk/our-research/animal-research>
 BBSRC <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/research/briefings/animals-in-bioscience-research/>
 British Heart Foundation <https://www.bhf.org.uk/about-us/our-policies/research-policies/animals-in-research>
 British Pharmacological Society <https://www.bps.ac.uk/about/our-campaigns/animals-in-research?cat=bps12aadf72574>
 Cancer Research UK <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-us/we-develop-policy/our-policy-on-supporting-science/the-use-of-animals-in-cancer-research>
 Cardiff University <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/research/our-research-environment/integrity-and-ethics/animal-research>
 Covance <https://www.covance.com/commitment/animal-welfare/our-commitment.html>
 Durham University <https://www.dur.ac.uk/research.innovation/governance/ethics/considerations/animals/statement/>

GlaxoSmithKline <http://www.gsk.com/en-gb/research/our-use-of-animals/>
 Imperial College London <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-integrity/animal-research/>
 The Institute of Cancer Research <https://www.icr.ac.uk/our-research/about-our-research/animal-research/animal-research-at-the-icr>
 King's College London <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/innovation/research/corefacilities/bsu/index.aspx>
 London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/research-governance-and-integrity/animal-research>
 Medical Research Council <https://www.mrc.ac.uk/research/research-involving-animals/>
 National Centre for the 3Rs <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/news/importance-transparency-research-using-animals>
 Newcastle University <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/research/ethics/animal/animalpolicy/>
 The Open University <http://www.open.ac.uk/research/ethics/animal-research>
 The Pirbright Institute <http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/our-science/animals-research>
 Plymouth University <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/animals>
 Queen Mary University of London <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/research/animal-research/index.html>
 Queen's University Belfast <http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/AnimalResearch/>
 Royal Veterinary College <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/about/animals-in-research>
 S3 Science <http://s3science.com/about/animal-research-why/>
 Sanger Institute <http://www.sanger.ac.uk/about/who-we-are/policies/animals-research>
 St George's, University of London <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/research/openness-in%20animal-research/1638-openness-in-animal-research#how-many-animals-do-you-use>
 Understanding Animal Research <http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/about-us/uar-position-on-the-use-of-animals-in-research/>
 University College London <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/animal-research>
 University of Bath <http://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/animal-research-policy-statement/>
 University of Birmingham <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/bmsu/index.aspx>
 University of Bristol <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/animal-research/>
 University of Cambridge <https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/research-at-cambridge/animal-research>
 University of Edinburgh https://www.ed.ac.uk/research/animal-research?mc_cid=e95c650b6b&mc_eid=342c43481d
 University of Exeter <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/inspiring/strategy/animals/>
 University of Glasgow <https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/aims/ourpolicies/opennessinanimalresearch/>
 University of Leeds http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/5000/about/520/animal_research
 University of Leicester <https://www2.le.ac.uk/institution/dbs/use/policy-statement>
 University of Liverpool <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/research-integrity/animal-research/>
 University of Manchester <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/environment/governance/ethics/animals/>
 University of Nottingham <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/animalresearch/index.aspx>
 University of Oxford <http://www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events/animal-research/>
 University of Portsmouth <http://www.port.ac.uk/research/using-animals-in-research/>
 University of Reading <http://www.reading.ac.uk/research/animal-research>
 University of Sheffield <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/rs/ethicsandintegrity/animal-research>
 University of St Andrews <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/staff/research/ethics/animalsinresearch/>
 University of Surrey <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/faculty-health-medical-sciences/research/animal-research>
 University of Sussex <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/standards/>
 University of York <https://www.york.ac.uk/research/animal-research/>
 Wellcome <https://www.wellcome.ac.uk/what-we-do/our-work/our-policy-work-animal-research>

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